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# STARS AND STRIPES®

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## 9/11 ANNIVERSARY



Ryan Clay, left, and Rocco DePrimo, former members of India Company, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines (seen inset above in Afghanistan in 2010), pose together for a photograph in Statesville, N.C.

# ‘There’s a lot of mixed feelings’



Americans who fought in Afghanistan wait to see how their war ends

By DAN LAMOTHE  
The Washington Post

STATESVILLE, N.C. — Ryan Clay and Anthony “Rocco” DePrimo were in different places in life when they met as Marines more than 12 years ago.

Clay was a combat instructor who already had seen war in Afghanistan and Iraq, where he earned a Purple Heart.

DePrimo was fresh out of high school and boot camp, a self-described former “pretty-boy dude”

who followed in his father’s footsteps to become a Marine.

“Rocco used to hate me,” Clay said, smirking slightly.

“Yeah!” DePrimo responded, his face lighting up. “There was probably some hatred there.”

That was before they served together in the largest single battle of the Afghan War, in which more than 15,000 U.S., British, Afghan and other coalition troops fought to take control of the Taliban stronghold of Marjah nine years ago.

SEE WAR ON PAGE 9

## RELATED

Heroes and victims are honored nationwide 18 years after attacks

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# Taliban are finding new generation to join fight

By J.P. LAWRENCE  
Stars and Stripes

BAHARAK, Afghanistan — After years of resisting Taliban control, Afghanistan’s northeastern province of Badakhshan has become yet another battleground in the fight for control of the country, thanks in large part to a long-term shift in the Taliban’s recruitment strategy, observers say.

Badakhshan never fell to the Taliban when they ruled the country in the 1990s, but last week, Afghan forces supported by NATO launched an offensive to recapture three districts in the province that had been seized by the militant group.

The Wardooj and Yamgan districts were retaken in the offensive, the Afghan Defense Ministry said on Twitter on Saturday. Both had been under Taliban rule for around four years.

A third district, Keran wa Manjan, which was seized by the militants in July and is home to one of the largest lapis lazuli mines in Afghanistan, remained under Taliban control despite the campaign mounted by the Afghan army and air force, supported by a local militia and NATO forces.

Badakhshan’s shift from relatively peaceful region to war zone is due in large part to a strategy adopted by the militant group over a decade ago, analysts have said.

Not only have the Taliban populated to disaffected populations around the country and established a patronage system to draw people into the movement in exchange for a job and an income, the militants have also been recruiting a new generation of local commanders from ethnic groups they previously oppressed.

Originally based in the south of the country, the Taliban drew

MILITARY

# Popular sandwich not an option overseas

By NANCY MONTGOMERY  
Stars and Stripes

Troops and their families are wondering when they will get a taste of the fast-food chicken sandwich that last month launched the “chicken sandwich wars” on social media and drew mouth-watering reviews.

While stateside customers are facing temporary shortages due to the popularity of the new sandwich, overseas customers have not had the option to try it.

Neither the regular nor spicy versions of the \$3.99 Chicken Sandwich that Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen introduced Aug. 12 have made it to the menu for overseas troops and families. Officials could not say when the sandwich, which quickly captured hearts and stomachs — and even

prompted an attempted armed robbery at one location when it sold out — might be offered at any of the 34 Popeyes restaurants on U.S. bases overseas.

Why weren't servicemembers and families overseas able to sample the sandwich and share in the phenomenon? Will they ever be included?

The new sandwich was available at military installations in the U.S. before selling out, said Chris Ward, spokesman for the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, which contracts with fast-food outlets on bases. But AAFES didn't get to decide when the sandwich would be introduced at other base locations, AAFES representatives said, referring sandwich questions to Popeyes.

“Popeyes is currently focused on the launch of its new Chicken Sandwich in the U.S.,” a company spokeswoman said in an email. “I’ll be sure to keep you posted once I have more information to share.”

The main image on the compa-



NANCY MONTGOMERY/Stars and Stripes

**The popular new Popeyes chicken sandwich, which is sold out in the U.S., has not made it to the company's overseas military locations.**

ny's website on Wednesday was a photo of an empty sandwich wrapper and crumbs of fried buttermilk breading next to the message, “Be right back.”

The chain sold about 1,000 chicken sandwiches per store each day during the craze, which

was spurred on by social media, doubling store traffic, an analyst at KeyBanc Capital Markets told CNBC on Monday.

In addition to raves on social media, the sandwich garnered glowing reviews from the New Yorker, Business Insider and The

Washington Post. Most of them compared it with those of competitors, especially Chick-fil-A, which has for years been considered king of the fast-food chicken sandwich. There are no Chick-fil-A on military bases.

The Post called Popeyes’ “the crunchiest, crispiest fast-food chicken sandwich out there.”

The New Yorker praised its brioché bun as “buttery and sweet and light,” its barrel-cured pickles as “crisp with vinegar, and its “exquisite slab of chicken breast, hefty and juicy and snow-white, in its crinkled armor of that uncommonly crisp fried batter.”

A man in Houston, Texas, pulled a gun when he and his friends were told there were no more sandwiches, police reported.

Two weeks after the sandwich first appeared, Popeyes announced supplies had run out. “We, along with our suppliers, are working tirelessly to bring the new sandwich back to guests as soon as possible,” the company said.

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## Corrections

■ An article published Wednesday listed munitions structures among the projects affected by border wall funding at Yokota Air Base, Japan. Those structures are at Kadena Air Base on Okinawa.

■ An article published Aug. 30 incorrectly identified a group of soldiers practicing suturing techniques on stuffed animals. Three veterinarians were teaching veterinary services personnel who are animal care specialists and food inspection specialists at the event.

## Severe weather knocks out power at Yongsan Garrison

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — Yongsan Garrison suffered a massive power outage Wednesday, causing services including the hospital's maternity ward to close or temporarily relocate operations.

The blackouts in an area known as South Post followed a storm that hit the aging U.S. Army garrison in Seoul as it was still recover-

ing from typhoon damage over the weekend.

“USAG Yongsan suffered multiple lighting strikes and winds last night that knocked out power to portions of the installation again,” the garrison said Wednesday morning, adding that power was expected to be down for most of the day.

The problem was fixed and “all buildings should have power now,”

it said in an evening update.

Brian D. Allgood Army Community Hospital had remained open but diverted pregnant women preparing for labor to South Korean hospitals as a protective measure.

“This is for their own safety,” said 65th Medical Brigade spokesman Bill Wight. “Everything else is operational.”

The Child Development Center,

which had closed, will be open Thursday, according to an announcement on Facebook.

Yongsan, which has been in U.S. military hands since the 1950-53 Korean War, has sharply reduced its population to just over 5,600 as it prepares to close as part of the relocation south to a newly expanded Camp Humphreys.

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## EUROPE

## Europeans pick neutrality if US, Russia tangle

By JOHN VANDIVER

Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — A vast majority of Europeans would want to remain neutral in the event of a conflict between the U.S. and Russia, but two NATO members lean more toward supporting Moscow than their fellow alliance member, a new opinion poll shows.

A survey conducted by the European Council on Foreign Relations asked Europeans in 14 European Union member states for their views on issues ranging from trade and climate change to military investment. When people were asked whom their country should side with in the event of conflict between the U.S. and Russia, majorities in all but one

country said it would be best to not pick sides.

Poland was the only country where a minority — 45% — said they would choose to remain neutral in a hypothetical conflict between the U.S. and Russia. A third of Poles said they would back the U.S. while only 6% said they would support Russia.

Greece and Slovakia strongly favored neutrality — 81% and 65%, respectively — but, despite both countries being members of NATO, those polled also showed higher support for Russia than the U.S.

In Slovakia, 20% said they would side with Moscow in a conflict, compared with 6% for the United States. In Greece, support for Russia was only slightly higher than for the U.S. — 7%

compared with 5%.

In Germany, which is home to roughly 30,000 U.S. troops, 70% of those polled favored neutrality while 12% supported the U.S. and 7% Russia.

The findings were similar when it came to a potential conflict between the U.S. and China, with Europeans favoring neutrality by wide margins.

“The study reveals a fundamental shift in Europeans’ views of the world,” according to a European Council on Foreign Relations synopsis.

The findings come at a time of tension between Washington and America’s historic allies in Europe, where President Donald Trump is widely unpopular.

The poll results also could indicate a growing desire among Eu-

ropeans to carve out a place for the EU as an independent counterweight to large powers like the U.S., China and Russia, the study said.

“European voters appear to want the EU to become a strong, independent actor using a non-confrontational strategy. In conflicts between the US and either China or Russia, they have a clear preference for the EU to remain neutral, pursuing a middle way between competing great powers,” the study said.

Still, the results, particularly regarding the question of whom to side with in a conflict between the U.S. and Russia, took some analysts by surprise.

Marcel Dirsus, of the Institute for Security Policy at Germany’s Kiel University, called the results

“remarkable.”

“After decades in which millions of Europeans have been protected from the Soviet Union and Russia by the United States, the vast majority of Europeans would want to stay neutral in a potential conflict between Russia and the United States,” Dirsus wrote on Twitter.

“This is awful,” tweeted Constanze Stelzenmueller, an expert on Germany with the Brookings Institution in Washington.

The European Council on Foreign Relations commissioned YouGov to carry out the surveys, which polled more than 60,000 people across Europe.

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## Long-range rocket launchers arrive at base in Germany

By MARTIN EGNASH

Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — The first contingent of U.S. rocket artillery vehicles began arriving in Europe on Wednesday to outfit a unique American brigade on the Continent.

The 41st Field Artillery Brigade, which activated in November, received the shipment of 16 M270-A1 multiple launch rocket systems, or MLRS, along with several support vehicles. Built atop an M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle chassis, each MLRS is capable of firing 12 long-range precision rockets in less than a minute.

The newly armed brigade is composed of two MLRS battalions and one support battalion and is the only U.S. rocket artillery brigade in Europe. Officials declined to say how many MLRS the unit will be outfitted with in total.

The system was developed in the late 1970s and first saw combat during the Persian Gulf War in early 1991, when it began dropping what surrendering Iraqi soldiers dubbed “steel rain,” the U.S. Army has said.

The rockets they fired released thousands of bomblets on the battlefield to fragment enemy formations.

In Europe, the rocket launchers will drastically increase the Army’s artillery firing range.

Hitlers used by the Army’s 2nd Cavalry Regiment and 173rd Airborne Brigade stationed in Europe have a range of less than 20 miles. The MLRS vehicles can launch rockets at a range of more than 40 miles and can be armed with up to two Army Tactical Missile System pods, each capable of firing a projectile at a target more



Each MLRS is capable of firing 12 long-range precision rockets in under a minute.

than 100 miles away.

“It’s a great weapon system,” brigade commander Col. Seth Knazovich said of MLRS. “We’re happy to be here, providing long-range fires in Europe.”

The additional firepower comes after the U.S. European Command last year told Congress it needed a long-range fires brigade added to the permanent force structure in Europe.

The force structure change is a result of the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act, which directed the Army to increase its numbers in Europe to defend NATO allies and deter aggression.

Placing the new units in Germany is “a display of our continued commitment to NATO and our collective resolve to support European security,” an Army statement said.

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PHOTOS BY MARTIN EGNASH/Stars and Stripes

A railyard worker walks past a row of M270-A1 MLRS rocket launch systems that arrived in Grafenwoehr, Germany, on Wednesday.



Workers guide the vehicles that will drastically increase the Army’s artillery firing range in Europe.



## PACIFIC

# N. Korea says it tested 'super-large' launcher

By KIM GAMEL  
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea said Wednesday that it test-fired another "super-large multiple rocket launcher" amid indications it may have been a partial failure.

South Korea's military said the communist state on Tuesday fired two projectiles that flew eastward about 205 miles at a maximum altitude of 31-37 miles.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff didn't give the speed or confirm where the missiles landed as it has in the past.

It was North Korea's 10th weapons launch since early May as experts say it is seeking to boost its negotiating power ahead of possible new nuclear talks with the United States.

The launch followed an offer by the North to resume talks with the United States later this month.

Tuesday's test, which was overseen by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, got an unusually lukewarm review from the North's state-run Korean Central News Agency, which stopped short of declaring it a success.

Two rounds were fired and the test "was in full line with its purpose and served as an occasion to clearly decide the next-stage orientation to complete the weapon system," KCNA said.

Kim was quoted as saying the weapon system "has been finally verified in terms of combat operation, the characteristics of



Rodong Sinmun

**North Korea said it test-fired another "super-large multiple rocket launcher" on Wednesday. Some analysts said there are indications it was a partial failure.**

trajectory, accuracy and precise homing functions," but more testing was needed.

The third-generation leader has praised past launches, including the Aug. 24 test of a "super-large multiple rocket launcher,"

as great successes.

North Korea also released photos showing rockets being launched from the back of a truck.

It appeared that the North tried to fire

three rockets, said Joseph Dempsey, a military analyst with the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

"Released imagery indicates three of the four launch tubes spent — suggesting one failure," he wrote on Twitter.

North Korea conducted two launches in early May and eight more from July 25 to Aug. 24, showing that it's continuing to develop its weapons capabilities as diplomacy remains stalled following a failed summit between President Donald Trump and Kim in Vietnam.

The two leaders agreed during another meeting on June 30 at the Korean border to resume working-level talks, but no date has been set.

Many North Korea watchers said Trump's decision to oust his headline national security adviser, John Bolton, could boost chances for new talks. The North Koreans generally despised Bolton, calling him a "human defect" at one point.

Catherine Dill, a senior research associate at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, Calif., said it would help to replace Bolton with the current U.S. envoy to North Korea, Stephen Biegun.

"I do not think talks under the current environment will advance diplomacy, but Bolton's firing may change things, especially if Biegun is tapped for the job," she said in an email.

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## MILITARY

## Dems to DOD: End stays at Trump properties

BY COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Two house Democrats on Tuesday pressed the Pentagon to ban its personnel who travel on taxpayer-funded trips from using accommodations at President Donald Trump's properties amid scrutiny of an Air Force crew's stay in March at a Trump resort in Scotland.

Reps. Elijah Cummings and Jamie Raskin, both Maryland Democrats, threatened to subpoena Pentagon records related to that trip and others in which crews have stayed at Trump's Turnberry resort during flights from the Middle East to the U.S.

In a letter sent to Defense Secretary Mark Esper on Tuesday, the congressmen said they have sought those records as part of an ongoing House Oversight Committee investigation since June, but the Defense Department has not responded to the request.

Cummings, the chairman of the Oversight Committee, and Raskin, who is the chairman of its subcommittee on civil rights and liberties, gave a Friday deadline to Esper to comply with their request before they would issue a subpoena. They warned the spending of taxpayer dollars

**“What we need to look at is ... is it appropriate to stay at places that some people may consider a luxury property?”**

Jonathan Hoffman  
Pentagon spokesman

at Trump properties could be unconstitutional.

“In order to ensure compliance with the Emoluments Clause of the Constitution, the Department of Defense should not allow any of its officials to stay at Trump properties using taxpayer funds,” they wrote. “It does not matter if they pay the government rate or a discounted rate. The Constitution prohibits taxpayer dollars from going to President Trump unless they are for his salary, including when those taxpayer funds are funneled through his businesses.”

Air Force and senior Pentagon officials acknowledged Monday that the C-17 cargo jet crew had stopped at Trump Turnberry, a coastal property billed as a luxury golf resort about 35 miles south of Glasgow. The seven-person crew stayed at the Trump property during a flight between Alaska and Kuwait.

Politico on Tuesday reported another such incident of an Air National Guard crew staying at Turnberry during a flight between the United States and al Udeid Air Base in Qatar.

Pentagon officials said the crew did nothing wrong by staying at the resort at a price that was within the allowed Defense Department lodging rate. The Air Force said the Trump property was the “closest available and least expensive accommodations to the airfield” for that particular trip, which was booked through the Defense Travel System.

Nonetheless, Gen. David Goldfein, the Air Force chief of staff, directed Air Force Air Mobility Command, which overseas travel worldwide, to conduct a review of its regulations, including whether it was appropriate for troops to stay in luxury accommodations deeply discounted to attract government officials.

“What we need to look at is, even if something falls within the travel regulations, is it appropriate to stay at places that some people may consider a luxury property?” said Jonathan Hoffman, the Pentagon's chief spokesman. “Or do we need to rethink that? And that's something that the Air Force is looking at right now.”

Hoffman said the review was not intended to single out Trump-owned properties.

An Air Force official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Tuesday that the service is considering whether it is appropriate for airmen to stay at Trump properties on official travel while Trump remains in office but a decision has not been made.

Among the issues raised by Cummings and Raskin is the Defense Department's increased use in recent years of an airport near Trump Turnberry in which they said Trump has an interest. Defense Department aircrews have stayed at hotels near Prestwick Airport, including but not exclusively Trump Turnberry, 259 times in 2019, compared with only 40 such stays in 2015, according to the Pentagon.

Hoffman defended the increased use of Prestwick. He said the airport is attractive because

it conducts refueling 24 hours a day, typically has better weather conditions than other nearby airports and has less parking congestion than other European airports for crews stopping for fuel between the Middle East and the United States.

Trump has denied he has any financial interest or other stake in Prestwick Airport, which is owned by the Scottish government. The president tweeted Monday he knew nothing of servicemembers staying in hotels that he owned, but he added the airmen who stayed at Turnberry have “good taste.”

Cummings and Raskin wrote that Trump has had “significant, direct, and detailed interactions with Prestwick Airport for years,” including attempts to increase traffic to the airport and partnering with it in 2014 to boost tourism in the region.

“Despite the president's support, Prestwick Airport has continued to struggle financially,” the congressmen wrote. “... The failure of Prestwick Airport, the closest commercial airport to the Turnberry resort, would place further financial pressure on Trump Turnberry, which already operates at a loss.”

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THE NEW SANNO

## MILITARY

# DOD lodging rate in flux ahead of funding deadline

By JENNIFER H. SVAN  
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Operators of several lodging facilities used for official Defense Department travel are still adjusting their room rates, less than a month before the military stops receiving taxpayer dollars to sustain the accommodations.

The rates are expected to increase Oct. 1, when the congressional appropriations funds dry up. In some places, guests could pay as much as 25% more per night than they do now.

The Pentagon directed the funding change last year to make the lodging operations pay for themselves in an effort to make base operations more efficient and free up funds for other priorities.

Army lodging room rates would be minimally adjusted “to cover the full cost of operations, such as maintenance, support and sustenance,” Army officials in Europe said in July. But changes were still under review and officials were working to determine new rates at several locations in Europe this week.

**Facilities operated for morale, welfare and recreation, such as Garmisch's Edelweiss Lodge and Resort, are excluded from the new policy.**

The rate increase affects military lodging facilities that provide rooms for personnel traveling on temporary duty and while in transit during permanent change of station moves.

It's expected the rates will still remain within per diem limits. Any increases would cost DOD customers traveling for leisure more. Those travelers often choose to stay on base when rooms are available since the rates tend to be cheaper than on the economy, particularly in Europe.

But employees staffing Army lodging facilities on Grafenwoehr, Vilseck and Wiesbaden, all reached by phone on Wednesday, said any changes to room rates were still under review. While confirming the program would be self-sustaining by the Oct. 1 deadline, a lodging employee at Ramstein Air Base said officials

were still collecting data to determine what the adjusted rates would be this week.

At least one Army lodging facility in Europe has determined what its new room rates will be — with increases ranging from 21% to 24%. At Hohenfels, a standard room will jump to \$97 a night, up from \$80; extended stay quarters will run \$107, up from \$88; and a family suite will increase to \$117, up from \$94.

Rates will not change at the Army's official lodging facility in Garmisch, a staffer said.

Facilities operated for morale, welfare and recreation, such as Garmisch's Edelweiss Lodge and Resort, are excluded from the new policy. So is lodging at military treatment facilities, such as Fisher Houses, and privatized facilities.

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ANDREW S. VALLES/U.S. Army

Members of an Army sapper company drill holes that will permit concertina wire to be attached to the border fence near the World Trade International Bridge in Laredo, Texas, on April 11. Defense Secretary Mark Esper has approved the deployment of U.S. troops along the Mexican border into fiscal year 2020.

## Esper approves border deployments for 2020

By ROSE L. THAYER  
Stars and Stripes

Defense Secretary Mark Esper has authorized up to 5,500 servicemembers to continue missions along the U.S.-Mexico border in fiscal year 2020.

Esper approved the request last week from the Department of Homeland Security to extend the mission, Lt. Col. Chris Mitchell, a Pentagon spokesman, confirmed Wednesday.

Troops will provide infrastructure support, operational support, detection and monitoring support and air support, Mitchell said. That is similar to the work that officials have described is now being done by troops along the border.

“These missions can be supported with manageable impacts to readiness and are contingent on the availability of funds and the continued statutory authority to provide such support,” he said.

Nearly 5,000 American troops — about 2,900 active-duty and 2,000 National Guard members — are now serving along the U.S. southern border, but that number has varied since the mission began in April 2018 with President Donald Trump's first authorization of National Guard members to serve alongside U.S. Customs and Border Protection in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California. Six months later, active-duty troops began deployments to the border.

Troops work alongside Border Patrol agents using mobile surveillance detection equipment, working in detention facilities, conducting administrative tasks and providing food service, transportation and medical aid.

An additional 1,000 Texas Na-

tional Guard troops are serving through the end of September at the command of Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, Mitchell said. Those troops are working in two migrant detention facilities.

It is unclear whether Esper's recent agreement of 5,500 troops includes National Guard and active-duty troops. It is also unclear whether troops will remain deployed for all of fiscal year 2020.

In April, military officials estimated the cost of the deployments to be about \$500 million through fiscal year 2019, which ends Sept. 30.

The deployments began as a way to help Border Patrols agents deal with an increase in apprehensions along the southern border. In May, more than 144,000 people were arrested at the border, according to data from Customs and Border Protection. They were primarily migrants from South and Central America seeking asylum. In August, apprehensions dropped to about 64,000 — the third consecutive month to see a decrease.

The deployments are unrelated to the Defense Department's support in building Trump's border wall. Earlier this month, Esper approved moving \$3.6 billion from the military construction budget to pay for 11 border barrier projects. That's in addition to \$2.5 billion approved for use to construct border barriers under then-acting Defense Secretary Pat Shanahan.

The Army Corps of Engineers awards those contracts, though servicemembers do not do any of the actual construction, defense officials said in April.

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## Damaged water line shuttered Sembach schools, day care

By JENNIFER H. SVAN  
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — A damaged water line that shut down services to two base schools and a day care center at Sembach on Wednesday has been repaired, officials said.

But those facilities will remain closed through Thursday due to “an abundance of caution” while water samples in the line are tested, U.S. Army Garrison Rheinland-Pfalz spokesman Stefan Alford said in a statement.

Alternative care will be provided Thursday for children enrolled in the Child Development Center and School Age Center. Whether those facilities would reopen on Friday is still being determined,

he said.

Sembach elementary and middle schools, meanwhile, were scheduled to reopen Friday. The garrison, with help from the 405th Army Field Support Brigade, plans to provide 3,000 bottles of water for the students when they return to school, Alford said.

The water line went down late Tuesday when an excavator working to prepare the site for the new elementary school damaged it. Only buildings north of the fitness center were affected.

Water pressure was restored Wednesday afternoon, with plans to begin water testing soon after to ensure it meets U.S. drinking water quality standards, Alford said. The water supply for firefighting and other emergency op-

erations was also restored.

In the meantime, garrison officials provided details on alternative child care arrangements for Thursday:

■ Sembach child care will be provided at the Kleber Child Development Center from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Parents may drop their children off at the Kleber CDC.

■ Care for children enrolled in the Sembach school-age program will be provided at Landstuhl's School Age Center. A bus will depart from the Sembach SAC parking lot at 7:30 a.m. and return at 4:45 p.m. for parental pickup.

■ The Sembach Youth Center will be closed Thursday.

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## Soldier stationed in Germany killed in US

By MARTIN EGNASH  
Stars and Stripes

VILSECK, Germany — Spc. Marlon Brumfield, a Stryker maintainer with the Army's 2nd Cavalry Regiment, was shot to death while on home leave in the United States, officials said.

Brumfield, 22, based in Vilseck, Germany, was visiting his home

in Lompoc, Calif., when he was shot Sunday, U.S. Army Europe said in a statement.

Brumfield was hit with multiple gunshot wounds around 2 a.m. when he was walking down a street, the Lompoc Police Department said. First responders attempted life-saving procedures.

Police are investigating the shooting, but no suspects or mo-

tives have been publicly named.

Brumfield joined the Army in January 2017. His awards included two Army Achievement Medals, the National Defense Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon and the Overseas Service Ribbon.

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# WAR ON TERRORISM

## Taliban: New generation of militants more diverse

### FROM FRONT PAGE

power in the 1990s mainly from the Pashtuns, Afghanistan's largest ethnic group. They alienated minorities such as the Tajik, Uzbek and Hazara and treated them harshly.

But members of those ethnic groups have been joining the militants for more than 10 years as shadow governors, judges and bureaucrats, analysts observed.

"It's a new generation, run by locals," Obaid Ali, analyst for Afghanistan Analysts Network, said in a phone interview. "There are no longer people coming from the south to serve as shadow governors in the north. There are already human resources on the ground."

Thomas Johnson, a professor at the Naval Postgraduate School who specializes in Afghanistan and the region, said that "more Tajiks, Hazaras and Uzbeks have joined the Taliban" in the last decade.

"Much of this new recruitment and membership corresponded to Afghans believing that the Tal-

iban are winning the war, so they jumped off the fence as once-neutral observers," Johnson said.

Many Taliban fighters in Badakhshan are now drawn from the same Tajik ethnic group that famed anti-Taliban leader Ahmad Shah Massoud hailed from. Massoud was killed by al-Qaida operatives two days before the attacks on the U.S. on Sept. 11, 2001.

The Taliban commander in Badakhshan's Baharak district is a Tajik man in his mid-20s, Ali said.

By expanding their recruitment reach to include members of ethnic minorities, the Taliban can now claim to be a national movement that caters to all Afghans, said Kamran Bokhari, founding director of the Center for Global Policy.

Their long-term recruitment policy has also helped the militant group to bring on board new fighters from the ranks of the many Afghans who are frustrated with what they feel is a government in Kabul that ignores them, Bokhari said.

"They're going across ethnic



PHOTOS BY J.P. LAWRENCE/Stars and Stripes

Residents drive across a new bridge on July 15 along one of the main roads of Faizabad, the provincial capital of remote Badakhshan province.

lines to forge alliances with those who have not benefited from the system," he said.

The impact of the strategy shift could last long after this month's operations to retake districts like Wardooj and Yangan.

Because many fighters are now drawn from local communities, it may be easier for them to

hide during military operations and reemerge after an area is "cleared" to restart the battle for territory.

The new generation of Taliban could also mean that if U.S. forces pull out of Afghanistan — a key Taliban demand in the now-dormant peace talks with the Americans — any potential internal conflict in Afghanistan could be even more complicated than the ethnically aligned civil war of the

1990s, said Vanda Felbab-Brown, senior fellow at the Washington-based Brookings Institution.

"It would be a much more fragmented civil war," Felbab-Brown said.

"Things would be very messy. It would not have clear lines."

Qurban Ali Hamzi and Zubair Babakarkhalil contributed to this report.  
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A boy rides a donkey along one of the main roads of Faizabad.



A woman, like others in the city, wears high heels under a chadare, or Afghan burqa, as she walks through the markets of Faizabad.



Afghan local police pass by depictions of noted anti-Taliban leaders Ahmad Shah Massoud and Burhanuddin Rabbani as they drive through the streets of Faizabad.

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## 9/11 ANNIVERSARY

# President warns Taliban in speech

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Wednesday marked the 18th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, touting America's military might directed against the Taliban, which gave sanctuary to the masterminds of strikes against New York and Washington.

"The last four days, we have hit our enemy harder than they have ever been hit before. And that will continue," Trump said during a remembrance ceremony at the Pentagon's 9/11 memorial. "And if for any reason, they come back to our country, we will go wherever they are, and use power — the likes of which the United States has never used before."

"And I'm not even talking about nuclear power. They will never have seen anything like what will happen to them. No enemy on Earth can match the overwhelming strength, skill and might of the American armed forces."

Trump pointed to the large military budgets during his presidency to the crowd of survivors and family members of those killed in the attacks. He also claimed the U.S. military had greatly increased its campaign against the Taliban since he abruptly canceled peace negotiations with them Saturday.

Pentagon officials on Wednesday did not confirm whether the U.S. military in Afghanistan had substantially increased its offensives against Taliban insurgents in recent days. However, Marine Gen. Kenneth McKenzie, who leads U.S. Central Command, told Reuters this week that increased combat efforts were likely now that Trump has canceled negotiations.

The ceremony at the Pentagon was held in its memorial grove where 184 trees and benches in-

scribed with the victims' names face the facility's southwest wall, where an airliner was crashed into the building on Sept. 11, 2001. With a massive American flag marking the point of impact, officials held a moment of silence Wednesday and the names of the victims of the attack were read aloud.

Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, thanked those who responded that day and those who served in the military since 9/11. He vowed the American people and the troops sworn to protect them will never forget the attacks.

"The terrorist attacks were meant to challenge our way of life and they sought to break our spirit," Dunford said. "But their purpose was never realized. That day made us stronger, more determined and more resolved to protect our nation and that for which it stands."

Trump thanked the first responders and those who joined the military in the wake of the attacks. He spoke of individuals killed in the attacks who used their final moments to save other lives, and their family members, some of whom were in attendance.

"We offer you all that we have, our unwavering loyalty, our undying devotion and our internal pledge that your loved ones will never ever be forgotten," Trump said, calling 9/11 a "dark and wretched day."

Trump recalled learning of the first attack while watching television news before watching the second plane strike the South Tower "at tremendous speed."

"It was then that I realized the world was going to change," he said.

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COREY DICKSTEIN/Stars and Stripes

President Donald Trump speaks Wednesday at the Pentagon during a ceremony marking 18 years since the 9/11 terrorist attacks.



MATTHEW KEELER/Stars and Stripes

Soldiers from across South Korea participate Wednesday in the 9/11 Memorial Ruck March at Camp Humphreys, South Korea.

## Troops, civilians mark 9/11 with ruck march at Humphreys

BY MATTHEW KEELER  
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — Servicemembers and civilians participated in the ninth annual 9/11 Memorial Ruck March at Camp Humphreys on Wednesday, marking 18 years since the worst attack on the U.S. since Pearl Harbor and the prelude to the nation's longest war.

An estimated 500 people signed up for the 9.11-mile memorial ruck, beating a record set in 2017 when 264 participants signed up and completed a slightly different route.

Many of the participants were mere toddlers on the morning of 9/11, more concerned with putting one foot in front of the other without falling over than shouldering a pack and moving out.

Pfc. Alison Malmberg, a supply specialist for the Eighth Army Wightman NCO Academy, was 2 years old when those tragic events unfolded.

"There are a few sergeants and people we work with that were in the military during 9/11, so it means a lot to spend this time with them and show that we are dedicated," she said. "Even though I was only 2, I am here today serving alongside them."

On the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, hijackers linked to al-Qaida took control of four U.S. jetliners. They crashed two into the World Trade Center in New York City and one into the Pentagon. Passengers aboard the fourth airliner rushed the hijackers, who crashed the plane into a field in Pennsylvania rather than continue on to their intended target in Washington. Thousands of innocent men, women and children lost their lives.

On Oct. 7, 2001, U.S. and British war planes bombed targets in Afghanistan, where the ruling Tal-

**‘Having my troops come out here today, hopefully, they remember where we came from, what happened and why it is important to train.’**

1st Sgt. Shaun Molver

F Company, 3rd General Support Aviation Battalion, 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade

iban had afforded al-Qaida safe haven. The bombings marked the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom and counterterrorism operations still underway today.

"We are here to honor those 2,977 lives claimed by the brutal attacks of Sept. 11, 2001," said Col. Michael Tremblay, Camp Humphreys' garrison commander and the keynote speaker, during opening remarks. "Patriots from all backgrounds and all walks of life responded with speed, courage and compassion. In the aftermath of the attack, our servicemembers and nation rallied together as one."

Starting and finishing at the Collier Community Fitness Center, ruckers tackled the course carrying a minimum of 35 pounds on their backs around the airfield and into areas of the ongoing \$10.7 billion base expansion and relocation project.

"This was probably a relatively small event here on Camp Humphreys when it first started nine years ago," said Capt. Anthony Friday, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion. "As Camp Humphreys has continued to grow and become the largest overseas post in the world, the event has just continued to grow exponentially with it."

"A lot of people, especially our senior NCOs and officers, may have known someone that lost

their life on 9/11," Friday said. "It's just one of those significant events that happen in people's lives when you still remember exactly where you were."

Eighteen years after the 9/11 attacks, teenagers are now joining military service knowing they may be called upon someday to sacrifice everything for a cause that took place before their own lives began.

"I live a lot of troops that are brand new, initial term soldiers, so many of them at this time weren't around for 9/11," said 1st Sgt. Shaun Molver, of F Company, 3rd General Support Aviation Battalion, 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade.

"When I was growing up in the Army, we said the Army only did two things, train to fight and fight to win," Molver told Stars and Stripes. "Having my troops come out here today, hopefully, they remember where we came from, what happened and why it is important to train."

Awards for the event were donated by the local Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club of Korea. Medals were awarded to the top three individual male and female participants, while streamers were awarded to the first three units to complete the course with 10 members.

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## 9/11 ANNIVERSARY

# War: 'Maybe this is now the Vietnam vets felt'

### FROM FRONT PAGE

That was before they lost brothers in arms together. Before DePrimo struggled with transitioning out of the military and drinking too much, and Clay survived an explosion that knocked him off his feet in Afghanistan and later a stroke.

Now the two are friends and part of a generation of war veterans who are waiting to see how the United States' longest conflict might end.

Some 775,477 U.S. veterans and servicemembers have deployed to Afghanistan since the U.S. war there began after the 9/11 terrorist attacks 18 years ago this week, including 28,267 who have gone five or more times, according to Pentagon statistics released to The Washington Post. Nearly 2,400 American troops have died there, including 16 in combat this year, and more than 20,000 have been wounded.

President Donald Trump repeatedly has vowed to bring the troops home. But on Saturday, he abruptly called off negotiations between U.S. diplomats and Taliban leaders and canceled a secret meeting planned at Camp David. It is not clear if Trump will remove some of the more than 14,000 U.S. troops who are deployed without a deal, or if talks can be jump-started.

The span of the conflict has prompted some veterans to question what has been accomplished. The nonpartisan Pew Research Center reported in July that 58 percent of veterans it surveyed said the war in Afghanistan was not worth it.

"There's a lot of mixed feelings, and just feeling, 'I don't know how I feel about it,'" DePrimo said. "Maybe this is how the Vietnam vets felt. I'd like to think that's possibly true — having the same feelings."

### 'Line of departure'

On a cold morning in February 2010, Clay, DePrimo and the rest of their unit — the 3rd Platoon of India Company, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines — landed in helicopters near Marjah in the southern province of Helmand. The rural, largely desert area was home to hundreds of Taliban fighters and fields filled with muddy canals and fields that grow opium poppies in the spring.

For days, the Marines liked to get closer to the enemy, uncertain when the fighting would start. They dug holes and shared them at night to escape the brutal cold.

"We had Marines burning their own socks to stay warm," Clay recalled.

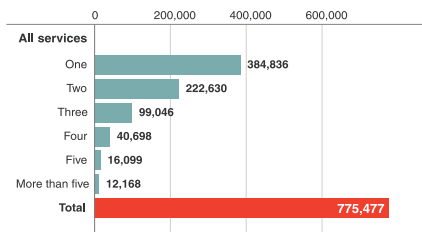
On Feb. 13, they crossed the "line of departure" on the map marking the Marjah boundary.

Gunfire punctuated the air. Two explosives disposal technicians fighting alongside the platoon, Gunnery Sgt. Ralph Pace and Sgt. John Morris, disarmed more than 20 bombs early in the operation, Clay said.

The platoon escaped without

### US deployments to Afghanistan, by the numbers

More than 775,000 different U.S. troops have deployed to Afghanistan since the U.S. invasion there in 2001. Nearly half served one deployment, but many served more. Here is a look at the details, by number of deployments per servicemember:



Statistics are current as of February 2019 and include deployments from active-duty, reserve and National Guard units.

SOURCES: Defense Department, The Washington Post

NOGA ANDRUS/Stars and Stripes

any fatalities, but four Marines in the battalion of 1,000 were killed between Feb. 17 and Feb. 21.

In March, the platoon was assigned to take over a dilapidated yellow schoolhouse, which was inside a walled courtyard the size of a football field in northern Marjah. Clay, a staff sergeant, was put in charge of operations on site, while his platoon commander, 1st Lt. Jackson Smith, led another part of the unit nearby.

The attacks began immediately. Squads of Marines, including one led by DePrimo, a corporal, were repeatedly ambushed with machine guns, rifles and rocket-propelled grenades a few hundred yards from their base. Several were wounded in murky fights in which friend and foe were hard to discern, and Taliban fighters zoomed away on motorcycles.

In one hair-raising battle, insurgents shot Lance Cpl. Matthew Earle, puncturing both of his lungs. Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Matthew Dishmon, a hospital corpsman, dragged him to safety under gunfire, earning a Bronze Star with V for his valor.

"The yellow schoolhouse, in my opinion, was my nightmare," Clay said. "Every night I'd go to bed

and no one was killed, I'd thank God and hope that tomorrow was not worse than today."

By the end of the deployment in August, nine Marines in the battalion had been killed. At least 86 earned Purple Hearts for being wounded in combat.

### Returning home

When the unit returned home to Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, the Marines began scattering.

DePrimo left the military in May 2011, disillusioned with his options. He bounced around community colleges in South Carolina and Florida and learned to operate a crane in Georgia, though by the time he finished training he didn't want to do that anymore.

He also drank too much, to the point that he eventually quit hard alcohol, he said.

"I don't know that there was anything else about getting out," DePrimo said of leaving the military. "I can't ever say I felt alone, but I secluded myself a lot just to kind of get away from a lot that was going on and what had transpired."

"A lot of it was me just not taking the right steps. It was all of the things I knew I shouldn't be doing,



PHOTOS BY EAMON QUENEY/The Washington Post

After leaving the Marine Corps, Ryan Clay moved to Statesville, N.C., where he became a patrol deputy.

but it was like, 'OK, whatever.'"

Clay continued his career and graduated from drill instructor school in Parris Island, S.C., in June 2011 with DePrimo watching. But a few weeks later, his life changed.

While barking orders to recruits, he felt a "pop" in his head and crushing pain. He was having a stroke.

For six weeks, Clay underwent physical therapy, walking with a cane and learning how to do basic tasks such as buttoning his clothes. He recovered, but his Marine Corps career was over. Doctors told him the explosion in Marjah could have been responsible.

"There's no sense in fighting it when they're going to retire you anyway," Clay said. "So be grateful and thankful that I'm still here."

Back in Marjah, violence was plummeting, but the war raged on in other parts of the country.

On June 26, 2011, Patte, the Marine so admired for his work disarming bombs, was killed in an explosion in Sangin, about 70 miles northeast of Marjah.

A couple weeks later, Sgt. Ian McConnell, 24, another Marine who served at the schoolhouse, died by suicide in California. Afghanistan weighed on him heavily, said his sister, Meg Schellinger, of Eagan, Minn.

"Even today, I'm still shocked," she said. "Yeah, he'd been pulling back and not really talking with me as much lately, but it just wasn't Ian, you know?"

As the years passed, Marjah again largely fell to the Taliban.

### Service and sacrifices

Since returning home, some former members of the platoon have flourished, and others have struggled. Lance Cpl. Dominic Draper died in a car wreck in 2016 after surviving a roadside bomb in Marjah that destroyed his vehicle while he was in his gun turret.

Smith, 34, who is now a lawyer

in New Orleans, said he is proud that every member of his platoon survived the deployment and tries to remind them that they have no control over how the war has gone. He recently got engaged.

"If you try to zoom out any further in terms of, 'What's our mission here?' you get very quickly into the realm of things over which you have absolutely no control," he said. "Keeping that boundary in place is very important in terms of dealing with the bitterness that some guys may have."

DePrimo and Clay settled near each other and took jobs in Statesville, a small city north of Charlotte with an old-fashioned downtown. That they live near each other happened by coincidence, but they spend time together frequently.

DePrimo, who turns 31 this month, married a woman from his hometown of Lake Wales, Fla., becoming a stepfather to three girls before having a son in 2018. He sold cars for a while, and moved on recently to taking classes in horticulture and farming. He's proud of what he and the Marines he served with did in Afghanistan.

"They were getting shot at, and they were running and shooting back at them," he said. "That's where the pride comes in for me: to know that these guys at one time all stood for the exact same thing, and they went out and they did it, and they accomplished what they were supposed to accomplish."

Since leaving the military, Clay, 36, has found happiness after getting divorced and remarrying, he said. He became a patrol deputy and dog handler with the Iredell County Sheriff's Department, and is quick to tell those he served alongside that he loves them.

"The sacrifices that were made, it's not that they were made in vain as long as they're not forgotten," he said. "That's the best way to put it. Things have to change. Times have to change."



Anthony "Rocco" DePrimo struggled after leaving the Marines. He eventually settled in Statesville, where he is taking classes in horticulture and farming.

## NATION

# GOP retains NC House seat but trailed in suburbs

## Trump takes credit for narrow victory

By ALAN FRAM  
Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Conservative Republican Dan Bishop won a special election for an open House seat in North Carolina, averting a demoralizing Democratic capture of a district the GOP has held for nearly six decades. But his narrow victory didn't erase questions about whether President Donald Trump and his party's congressional candidates face troubling headwinds approaching 2020.

Bishop, a state senator best known for a North Carolina law dictating which public bathrooms transgender people can use, defeated centrist Democrat Dan McCready on Tuesday. Bishop tied himself tightly to Trump, who staged an election eve rally for him in the district, and Tuesday's voting seemed no less than a referendum on the Republican president, who quickly took credit for the triumph.

"Dan Bishop was down 17 points 3 weeks ago. He then asked me for help, we changed his strategy together, and he ran a great race. Big Rally last night," Trump tweeted. No polling has emerged publicly that showed Bishop with a deficit of that magnitude. Operatives from both parties and analysts had long said the race was too close to call.

The results in the district underscored the rural-urban split between the parties, with Bishop, 55, running up substantial numbers in outlying areas and McCready eroding GOP advantages in suburban areas. McCready's moderate profile resembled that of many Democrats who won in Republican-leaning districts in the 2018 midterms and, even with the loss on Tuesday, showed the durability of that approach.

Bishop's margin — a little more than 2 percentage points — was less than the 11 points by which Trump captured the district in 2016. And it was only slightly greater than when then-GOP candidate Mark Harris seemed to win the seat over McCready, 36, last year — before those results were annulled after evidence of vote tampering surfaced and a new election was ordered.

Republicans have held the seat since 1963, and its loss would have been a worrisome preface to the party's presidential and congressional campaigns next year.

"I think it means Trump is going to get a second term, and Republicans will retake the majority," House Minority Leader



NELL REDMOND/AP

**North Carolina 9th district Republican congressional candidate Dan Bishop waits to speak with the White House at his victory party in Monroe, N.C.**

Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., said. Many analysts think a GOP takeover will be difficult.

Special elections generally attract such low turnout that their results aren't predictive of future general elections. Even so, the narrow margin in the GOP-tipped district suggested that Democrats' 2018 string of victories in suburban districts in red states including Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas could persist next year.

Rep. Cheri Bustos, of Illinois, who runs House Democrats' political committee, said the race showed her party is "pushing further into Republican strongholds" and was in a "commanding position" to do well next year.

Michael Bitzer, a politics professor at Catawba College, said the margin suggests that the country's other swing districts "could be still up for grabs."

There is almost no path to Republicans regaining House control next year unless they avoid losing more suburban districts.

The district stretches from Charlotte, one of the nation's financial nerve centers, through its flourishing eastern suburbs and into less prosperous rural counties along the South Carolina line. More than half its voters were expected to come from the suburbs.

Tuesday's vote showed that Bishop benefited from the district's conservative leanings.

"Bishop, his policies follow my convictions — after hearing Bishop on, knowing that he's for the Second Amendment and he's against illegal immigration," said Susie Sisk, 73, a retiree from Mint Hill. The registered Democrat said she voted for Bishop.



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

**The Rev. Jackie Jackson, left, an anti-violence advocate from Cincinnati, and gun violence survivor Mia Livas Porter, of Los Angeles, comfort each other as they attend a forum Tuesday led by House Democrats to urge the Senate to vote on a bill that would expand background checks for gun purchases.**

## Gun legislation languishes while leaders trade barbs in Congress

By LISA MASCARO AND MATTHEW DALY  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Tuesday that Democrats are engaging in "theatrics" over gun control legislation, while House Speaker Nancy Pelosi warned that "people are dying" because the Senate leader refuses to act. After a summer of devastating mass shootings, Congress appears no closer to approving legislation to curb gun violence as President Donald Trump wavers on what kind of bill he wants the lawmakers to send for his signature.

"Lives are at stake," Pelosi told reporters, after being asked if the House could have done more.

"Don't ask me what we haven't done. We have done it," Pelosi said. "If you are annoyed with my impatience, it's because people are dying because Senator McConnell hasn't acted. Why don't you ask him if he has any regrets for all the people who died because he hasn't acted?"

McConnell refuses to allow a vote on a House-passed bill to expand background checks for gun purchases because he says it's not clear the Senate would be able to pass the legislation or that Trump would sign it into law.

For Democratic leaders, who held a press conference Monday pushing action on guns, "It's all about trying to scare people," McConnell said.

Louisiana Rep. Steve Scalise, the No. 2 House Republican, took a similar hard line after a meeting of GOP leaders Tuesday at the White House. Trump

**‘Don't ask me what we haven't done. We have done it.’**

**Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.**  
speaker of the House

wants to work with Congress "to solve problems," Scalise said, while Democrats appear intent on being "more aggressive in taking away people's guns."

Scalise was unimpressed by polls showing more than 90% support for stronger background checks, saying the House-passed bill "just makes it harder for law-abiding citizens to exercise their Second Amendment rights, and we're not going there."

The White House's legislative director met privately with Republican senators Tuesday to discuss ideas the administration is considering, including so-called red flag legislation to allow officials to take away guns from people believed to be dangers to themselves or others and quicker imposition of the death penalty for mass shooters.

McConnell said the summer's mass shootings "deserve a response." But he's waiting on the White House for next steps and wants to consider only legislation Trump would sign into law. The White House had previously warned it would veto the House background checks bill.

## Iowa, NH to hold GOP caucus, primary

Associated Press

MANCHESTER, N.H. — Republicans in Iowa and New Hampshire are vowing to hold a caucus and primary next year, even as party leaders in a handful of other states have canceled their contests to help smooth President Donald Trump's path to reelection.

"Under no circumstances will the New Hampshire primary ever be canceled, whether there's taken opposition or a serious contest,"

Steve Duprey, New Hampshire's national Republican committee man, said in an interview.

"It was never even up for discussion," echoed Iowa GOP National Committeeman Steve Scheffer in a separate interview. "We're not going to shut the door on anyone and say, 'You're not welcome.'"

At least three Republicans have stepped up to challenge Trump's claim to his party's 2020 presidential nomination: former Massachusetts Gov. Bill Weld, former

South Carolina Gov. and U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford and former Illinois congressman Joe Walsh. None of them is expected to generate enough support to defeat — or even embarrass — the incumbent president in the months leading up to the November 2020 general election.

Still, Trump allies on the ground in South Carolina, Nevada, Arizona and Kansas moved in recent days to cancel their 2020 primary contests altogether to eliminate the possibility of trouble.



# NATION

## Pompeo can excel with exit of Bolton

By CAROL MORELLO  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The departure of John Bolton as national security adviser puts Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in the driver's seat for the administration's foreign policy debates.

With his chief rival for influence with the president suddenly out of the picture, Pompeo will have more autonomy and freedom to operate without being blocked by his polar opposite in style and temperament.

During his tenure, Pompeo has assiduously burnished his relation with President Donald Trump. He seems to innately understand Trump's mood and agenda and tries to make things happen the way Trump wants.

When they disagree, Pompeo keeps his personal views so private he sometimes is referred to as a Trump whisperer. Bolton, in contrast, seemed incapable of keeping his opinions to himself.

Pompeo made no attempt to sound disappointed at a Tuesday news conference when he was peppered with questions about Bolton's departure.

"There were many times Ambassador Bolton and I disagreed; that's to be sure," Pompeo said at the White House event, frequently breaking into a grin. "But that's true for lots of people with whom I interact."

Pompeo's jocular mood reflected the smoother road that is probably ahead for him as he tries to advance Trump's foreign policy goals without Bolton around to argue against them.

"Bolton's departure gives Pompeo more running room," said Cliff Kupchan, chairman of the Eurasia Group. "Every time the president, or Pompeo, or anyone in the administration came up with an idea, they had to face Dr. No. That person has now been fired. So the rest of the team, which is more moderate by definition, will now have an easier time moving their agenda."

Ultimately, foreign policy is set by the president, not the secretary of state or the national security adviser. So the impact of Bolton's leave-taking can be overstated.

"Trump has always been the decider-in-chief," said James Cafano, a national security and foreign policy analyst with the Heritage Foundation. "It was his foreign policy before Bolton came. It will be his foreign policy after Bolton leaves. I don't think the president cares a hoot if Pompeo and Bolton disagree. What he cares about is getting the decision



Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, left, with Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin at a briefing at the White House on terrorism financing Tuesday, will have a freer hand in foreign policy matters with the departure of national security adviser John Bolton.

he needs to get to."

The differences between Pompeo and Bolton were less ideological than tactical, though a wide gulf separated the ways they expressed their views to the president and in public.

John Glaser, director of foreign policy studies at the Cato Institute, said policies on North Korea, Iran and Afghanistan should be communicated with fewer indications of internal strife.

"Pompeo is as much a hawk on Iran as Bolton," Glaser said. "Negotiations with North Korea will be less hindered, with less internal dissent. It mostly boils down to Bolton's reputation as a bureaucratic manipulator who makes enemies within the executive branch as a matter of habit."

Unlike Bolton, Pompeo has a way of going along with Trump and not boldly stating where they disagree on policy.

Even stylistic differences can have a major effect on diplomacy, however. Early in his tenure as national security adviser, Bolton nearly ended talks with North Korea when he endorsed the "Libya model" for nuclear disarmament. North Korea threatened to walk away from a summit in Singapore, perceiving a threat because the Libyan model helped lead to the toppling of Moammar Gadhafi's regime by a domestic uprising and a NATO-led coalition.

"That revealed the true side of Bolton," said Steve Pomper, who served in the State Department and the National Security Council during the Obama administration. "He's a guy who's a maximalist. He doesn't believe in measure-for-measure deals and is very skeptical of taking his foot off the gas until the end of the road. The problem is, you don't get there unless you're willing to do measure-for-measure deals."

Pompeo, in contrast, has shown himself willing to negotiate with Pyongyang, Tehran and the Taliban, all policies promoted by Trump.

"Bolton was ideological and brought his ideology onto the job with him," said Pomper, who now is the senior director of policy for the International Crisis Group. "Pompeo may be ideological. But while serving in the administration, his ideology is sublimated to



In his time as national security adviser, John Bolton was clear in his views on Iran. Iran's government said Bolton's dismissal may help improve the U.S. attitude toward Tehran.

## Iran signals approval of US adviser's firing

By NASSER KARIMI  
Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's president urged the U.S. on Wednesday to "put warmongers aside" as tensions roil the Persian Gulf amid an escalating crisis between Washington and Tehran in the wake of the collapsing nuclear deal with world powers.

Hassan Rouhani's remarks signaled approval of President Donald Trump's abrupt dismissal of John Bolton as national security adviser. Bolton had been hawkish on Iran and other global challenges.

Rouhani's website quoted him as further urging the U.S. to "abandon warmongering

and its maximum pressure policy" on Iran. He spoke at a Cabinet meeting in Tehran.

Ali Rabei, a government spokesman, said after the meeting that Bolton's dismissal may help the U.S. have a "less biased" attitude toward Iran.

Though he stressed the dismissal was an internal U.S. issue, Rabei called Bolton "the symbol of America's hawkish policies and its animosity toward Iran."

Bolton was critical of any potential talks between Trump and leaders of Iran and persuaded Syria to keep U.S. forces in Syria to counter the Iranian influence in the region.

his role as an enabler."

Aaron David Miller, a former State Department official who is a foreign policy analyst at the Carnegie Endowment, said Bolton effectively self-destructed through his bellicose public pronouncements. Pompeo's silence has allowed him to thrive.

"It's really quite a feat," he said.

## Leaked plan overhauls how Medicare pays for prescriptions

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A draft plan from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi that leaked Tuesday would overhaul how Medicare pays for prescription drugs, by negotiating prices for costly medications, curbing annual price increases and limiting what seniors pay out of their own pockets.

With President Donald Trump highly interested in a deal on prescription drug, the ambitious plan appeared to be Pelosi laying down a marker that represents what House Democrats would want to see happen.

Pelosi's office wasn't commenting on the leaked proposal, but spokesman Henry Connolly said she's working with Democrats "to develop the boldest, toughest possible bill to lower prescription drug prices for all Americans." The plan would also make Medicare's negotiated prices available to people with private insurance.

The California Democrat has been in discussions with the White House for months about potential actions to curb drug costs, but the outlook remains uncertain. Empowering Medicare to negotiate prices is a nonstarter for most Republicans, even if Trump in the past backed the idea.

In the Senate, a bipartisan group of lawmakers is advancing a bill that stops short of allowing Medicare to negotiate but incorporates other major ideas in Pelosi's plan.



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## NATION

# Wis. man accused in THC vaping cartridge scheme

Associated Press

KENOSHA, Wis. — A Wisconsin man is accused of running a 10-man operation that manufactured thousands of counterfeit vaping cartridges loaded with THC oil every day for almost two years, authorities said.

Kenosha County prosecutors said Tyler Huffhines, 20, had employees make professionally packaged cartridges. Authorities said the employees filled about 3,000 to 5,000 cartridges per day that were sold for \$16 each.

"Based on how everything was set up, this was a very high-tech operation that was running for some time," Andrew Burgoyne, Kenosha County assistant district attorney, said during a Monday court hearing to set bond. Police said the business started in January 2018.

Police arrested Huffhines on Thursday. He was being held on a \$500,000 cash bond while he awaits charges to be filed. He was due in court Friday.

His attorney, Mark Richards, did not respond to an email or a phone message left at his office.

The Drug Enforcement Administration, the Kenosha Drug Operations Group and other agencies executed search warrants at two homes. The Kenosha News reported that authorities seized 189 pounds of marijuana, THC oil, eight firearms and about \$20,000 in cash.

The arrest comes as health officials investigate 450 possible cases in 33 states where vaping



KENOSHA COUNTY (Wis.) SHERIFF'S OFFICE/AP

**Tyler Huffhines is accused of manufacturing thousands of counterfeit vaping cartridges a day with THC oil for two years.**

was linked to a severe lung disease. Kansas reported its first death tied to the outbreak Friday. Nationwide, as many as six people have died.

Health officials have warned against buying counterfeit vaping cartridges. It's unknown if the Wisconsin operation has been linked to any illnesses.

No single vaping device, liquid or ingredient has been tied to all the illnesses. But recent attention has been focused on devices, liquids, refill pods and cartridges that are not sold in stores.

Last week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warned against modifying vaping products or adding any substances not intended by the manufacturer.

By NIKKI WENTLING  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Rep. Steve Womack, R-Ark., urged the House Committee on Veterans Affairs on Tuesday to investigate how the Department of Veterans Affairs handled the case of a pathologist in Fayetteville, Ark., who allegedly misdiagnosed patients while intoxicated on the job.

Robert Levy, 53, the former chief pathologist at the Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks, was indicted last month on three counts of involuntary manslaughter and 28 counts of mail fraud, wire fraud and false statements to law enforcement officials. His misdiagnoses totaled more than 3,000 cases and were responsible for at least 15 deaths, The Washington Post reported.

Levy was found in 2016 to have a blood alcohol level of 0.396 while at work, five times the legal limit in Arkansas of 0.08. He was suspended but returned to his position after completing a three-month treatment program and agreeing to random drug and alcohol screenings.

He was fired in 2018 after he was found to have used 2-methyl-2-butanol, a substance that causes intoxication in small doses but is undetectable in routine drug and alcohol tests.

Womack blasted the VA on Tuesday for its decision to return Levy to a supervisory position.

"I will never understand why the VA returned Mr. Levy to duty as a supervisor," Womack said. "I

believe in second chances, but not in life or death circumstances."

Womack made the statements during a hearing of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, during which committee members heard from lawmakers about their concerns regarding VA facilities in their districts. He called on the committee to "conduct vigorous oversight" on the situation.

"I respectfully request your committee investigate the actions and decisions made by the VA throughout the entirety of this episode," Womack said.

Rep. Mark Takano, D-Calif., the chairman of the committee, said the subcommittee on oversight and investigations was planning a hearing in the fall to discuss Levy's case, as well as an ongoing investigation concerning the suspicious deaths of at least 10 veterans at a VA facility in West Virginia.

Two of the deaths, caused by fatal doses of insulin administered at the VA hospital in Clarksburg, W.Va., have been confirmed as homicides. There is a person of interest in the case, but the VA said the allegations don't involve any current VA employees.

"We have a duty to ensure that veterans can access care without falling victim to bad actors within the VA systems," said Rep. Chris Pappas, D-N.H., chairman of the subcommittee on oversight and investigations.

Regarding Levy's case, Womack criticized the VA for its failure to

communicate with lawmakers, in addition to the agency's decision to keep Levy after he was found drunk on the job.

"The way the VA engaged with my office, with other Arkansas delegation offices and this committee was concerning," Womack said. "The VA is a department of the federal government and is subject to the oversight of Congress. But throughout the entire process, the VA was slow to provide important information to the relevant people."

Takano said he was "particularly disturbed" about the VA's lack of communication.

"Congress does have the duty to do oversight — and we will," he said.

The VA on Tuesday rebutted Womack's comments. The agency said it had kept elected officials informed.

"That statement is at odds with the public comments of other members of the Arkansas congressional delegation and local veterans," a VA spokesman wrote in an email. "Communication with congressional offices was ongoing throughout the duration of the lookback to include calls in advance of all town halls to keep them informed."

Levy is being held without bond in the Washington County Detention Center in Fayetteville, the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette reported. His bond hearing is set for Sept. 25.

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# US wants judge to toss tribes' suit over pipeline

Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. — Attorneys for the Trump administration want a U.S. judge to throw out a lawsuit from Native American tribes trying to block the proposed Keystone XL oil pipeline from Canada to Nebraska.

Tribes in Montana and South Dakota say President Donald Trump approved the pipeline without considering potential damage to cultural sites from spills and construction.

The administration counters that Trump's approval applies only to a 1-mile section of pipeline along the U.S.-Canada border and not the rest of the line.

U.S. District Judge Brian Morris will preside over a Thursday hearing on the government's attempt to dismiss the case.

The judge blocked the line in



ADAM FORDEN, RAPID CITY (S.D.) JOURNAL/AP

**Demonstrators in Rapid City, S.D., protest against the Keystone XL pipeline in June. The Trump administration wants a judge to dismiss a legal challenge to the pipeline by Native American tribes.**

November, saying more environmental studies were needed. But Trump circumvented that ruling in March by issuing a new permit for the \$8 billion, 1,184-mile project.

The Assiniboine and Gros Ventre tribes of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation in Montana and South Dakota's Rosebud Sioux tribe say Trump's action violated

their rights under treaties from the mid-1800s.

Morris is overseeing a separate lawsuit against Keystone XL from several environmental groups. He's signaled he may consolidate the two cases.

Pipeline sponsor TC Energy, formerly known as TransCanada, is also seeking dismissal of the tribes' lawsuit.

# Ex-FEMA officials, contractor accused of bribery and fraud

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Federal authorities said Tuesday they have arrested two former officials of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the former president of a major disaster relief contractor, accusing them of bribery and fraud in the efforts to restore electricity to Puerto Rico in the wake of Hurricane Maria.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Puerto Rico said the then-president of Cobra Acquisitions LLC, Donald Keith Ellison, gave FEMA's deputy regional director of bribery and fraud in the efforts to restore electricity to Puerto Rico in the wake of Hurricane Maria.

In return, Ashna Nateef Tribble "used any opportunity she had to benefit Cobra," said U.S. Attorney Rosa Emilia Rodriguez, including accelerating payments to the company and pressuring local power authority officials to award it contracts.

Ellison also gave a job to a

friend of Tribble, Jovanda R. Patterson, who had been FEMA deputy chief of staff in Puerto Rico before resigning in July 2018 to work for Cobra Energy LLC, according to the indictment. Cobra Acquisitions and Cobra Energy are subsidiaries of Oklahoma City-based Mammoth Energy Services Inc.

Tribble was FEMA's primary leader in trying to restore electric power after Hurricane Maria destroyed the power grid in 2017. Cobra was given contracts worth about \$1.8 billion.

Authorities said Tribble was arrested Monday in Florida while Ellison was detained in Oklahoma.

Ellison's attorney, Bill Leone, said the government is trying to criminalize a friendship between Ellison and Tribble when there was nothing wrong with their relationship.

"He has done nothing wrong," Leone said of Ellison. "There's just absolutely nothing to prohibit that."

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## NATION

# SC hearing part of effort to consider abortion ban

By JEFFREY COLLINS  
Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — A small group of South Carolina senators held a daylong hearing Tuesday on whether South Carolina should join about a half-dozen other states in banning nearly all abortions, but the Southern state might not be ready to follow some of its conservative compatriots.

More than 50 people spoke during the carefully scripted hearing. The Senate subcommittee tried to evenly divide the speakers by those for and against the bill, which would ban almost all abortions after a fetal heartbeat is detected, around six weeks into pregnancy.

Most of the speakers for the bill were pastors, Republican lawmakers, religious organizations that aid pregnant women or others morally opposed to abortion. Many of the speakers against the bill were doctors or women who shared personal stories of abor-

tions or medical crises that might have fallen into gray areas under the proposal.

The bill easily passed the House in April and Gov. Henry McMaster enthusiastically supports it. But some backers aren't sure it can get the two-thirds support likely needed to overcome procedural hurdles in the Senate when the Legislature returns Jan. 14.

Heartbeat abortion bills have been passed in recent years in Louisiana, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi and Ohio. Missouri approved a ban on abortions after eight weeks of pregnancy and Alabama lawmakers simply outlawed all abortions.

Abortion is legal under federal law, which supersedes state law, and lawsuits have been filed against the state measures. The laws' backers are hoping to get a case before the U.S. Supreme Court to challenge the court's 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling that legalized abortion nationwide. The push comes amid rising opti-

mism among conservatives that the restrictions might prevail in the reconfigured Supreme Court that includes President Donald Trump's appointees Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh.

Subcommittee chairman Sen. Shane Martin said there would be no vote on the bill Tuesday. The Republican from Spartanburg County said he wanted to hold public hearings before all lawmakers returned because the Senate has a busy calendar that includes tackling a wide-ranging overhaul of public education and deciding whether to sell state-owned utility Santee Cooper, which is billions of dollars in debt after partnering on two nuclear plants that were abandoned before they generated a watt of power.

South Carolina is a conservative state with a history of past efforts to restrict abortion. But momentum on the current bill has stalled as the state's long shift from Democratic to Republican



JEFFREY COLLINS/AP

State Rep. Josiah Magnuson speaks in favor of a bill banning abortion after a heartbeat is detected on Tuesday in Columbia, S.C.

domination has finally peaked.

"This comes down to a math question: Do you have the votes to do it?" said Senate Majority Leader Shane Massey.

Democrats in 2018 altered a much less restrictive ban on abortion into a ban on almost all abortions, putting less conservative Republicans on the spot. The bill failed because Republicans could not muster the two-thirds vote needed to end a filibuster and bring the bill to a vote.

Since then, Republicans have lost a Senate seat. They need 27 of

their 28 members on board, and one GOP senator is philosophically against even voting to end a filibuster, Massey said.

Republican senators plan to meet a few weeks before the 2020 session starts and figure out if they have the votes, Massey said.

Tuesday's hearing was polite and respectful despite the 100 or so people who packed the room. There were no outbursts or demonstrations as people spoke. Martin asked senators to limit their questions so as many people could speak as possible.



RICARDO SANTOS, THE LAREDO (TEXAS) MORNING TIMES/AP

Located a short distance from the Rio Grande, the Migrant Protection Protocols Immigration Hearing Facilities in Laredo, Texas, are adjacent to the Gateway to the Americas International Bridge. Hearings for immigrants seeking asylum are set to begin Monday.

## Tent courts set to open on border

Associated Press

EL PASO, Texas — The Trump administration is ready to open a tent court on the border to help handle tens of thousands of cases of asylum-seekers forced to wait in Mexico, with hearings held entirely by videoconference.

The court, or "soft-sided" facility as U.S. officials call it, is scheduled to begin operations Monday in Laredo, Texas. Another is expected to open soon in Brownsville in the Rio Grande Valley, the busiest corridor for illegal crossings.

The administration introduced its "Remain in Mexico" policy in San Diego in January and later expanded it to El Paso, but

hearings there are conducted inside large buildings with normal courtrooms, and the judge usually appears in person.

The policy, assailed by critics for making families and young children wait in violent Mexico border cities, has become a key piece of the U.S. response to a large increase in asylum-seeking families, especially from Central America.

Mexico allowed for its rapid expansion in a June 7 pact that spared it, at least temporarily, from threats of tariff increases by President Donald Trump.

Mexican Foreign Relations Secretary Marcelo Ebrard and U.S. Vice President Mike Pence agreed Tuesday to expand the

policy "to the fullest extent possible," according to a summary of their meeting provided by the White House.

About 40,000 non-Mexican asylum-seekers have been forced to wait in Mexico while their cases wind through clogged U.S. immigration courts, according to the Mexican government. The number soared after the June agreement between the U.S. and Mexico, and the policy was expanded to Laredo and Brownsville.

The Laredo court will manage as many as 300 cases a day, Alberto Flores, port director for U.S. Customs and Border Protection, said during a tour for journalists Tuesday.

## Hunting, fishing to be expanded at 77 US wildlife refuges

Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — The Trump administration said Tuesday that it is expanding hunting and fishing in 77 national wildlife refuges in a move that critics contend is deferring management to states and could harm wildlife.

The Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said hunters and anglers can shoot and cast their rods on 2,200 square miles of federally protected land in 37 states, much of which is considered critical habitat for waterfowl and other birds to rest and refuel during their migration.

"This is the largest single effort to expand hunting and fishing access in recent history," Interior Secretary David Bernhardt said last month before the changes were posted Tuesday in the Federal Register.

It's the latest effort by the Trump administration to open public lands to recreation and industry, including oil and gas drilling, which critics say comes at the expense of the environment and wildlife. President Donald Trump also has scaled back two national monuments in Utah, a move that opened the lands that were cut to potential drilling and mining. New plans for the monuments allow more grazing and recreation.

Hunting and fishing will be allowed at seven national wildlife refuges for the first time and ex-

panded at 70 others. The agency said some 5,000 regulations have been eliminated or simplified to match state rules.

Conservationists said the changes went into effect without adequate environmental review.

"While the Trump policy retains federal ownership, it basically eviscerates federal management," said Jeff Ruch, of Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility. "The states end up managing federal land with federal dollars but following state laws. That's a sea change from federal management for conservation and biodiversity rather than promoting hunting."

One concern is that state and federal officials don't appear to have a monitoring system to see what effect the changes might have on game species and those that aren't hunted, Ruch said.

Hunting groups generally supported the changes.

Adam Putnam, chief executive officer of Ducks Unlimited, a group that works to conserve waterfowl habitat, said the changes wouldn't harm wildlife populations. He said simplifying regulations by adopting state rules would draw more people outdoors.

"It's going to encourage new hunters and anglers to enter the sport and fall in love with the outdoors and become lifelong conservationists," he said.

# WORLD

## Court: Parliament shutdown unlawful

By JILL LAWLESS  
Associated Press

LONDON — Prime Minister Boris Johnson's decision to suspend Parliament less than two months before Britain is due to leave the European Union was unlawful, a Scottish court ruled Wednesday — though it said Britain's top court must make the final decision.

Judges at the Court of Session in Edinburgh said the government's action was illegal "because it had the purpose of stymieing Parliament."

The judges said the suspension was "null and of no effect," but referred the matter to Britain's Supreme Court for resolution. A hearing there is due to begin Tuesday.

After the ruling, opposition politicians urged the government to scrap the suspension and recall lawmakers to Parliament.

A group of about 70 opposition lawmakers challenged the government's decision to prorogue, or formally shut down, Parliament, for five weeks until Oct. 14 — just over two weeks before Britain is due to leave the EU.

Johnson says he took the action so he can start afresh on his domestic agenda at a new session of Parliament next month. But the suspension also gives him a respite from rebellious lawmakers as he plots his next move to break the political deadlock and lead Britain out of the EU by Oct. 31.

Opponents argue that Johnson

is trying to evade democratic scrutiny.

Last week, a court in Edinburgh rejected the lawmakers' challenge, saying it was a matter for politicians, not the courts, to decide.

That was overturned Wednesday on appeal.

Jolyon Maugham, a lawyer who is part of the claim, said he believed "that the effect of the decision is that Parliament is no longer prorogued."

It was unclear what that means in practice. Catherine Haddon, a senior fellow at independent think tank the Institute for Government, tweeted that the ruling "does not (yet) change the prorogation itself. Though of course will add to pressure."

Labour Party Brexit spokesman Keir Starmer said the court's ruling was "very rare and it's very strong." He said the government should immediately recall Parliament.

The British government said it was disappointed by the decision and confirmed it would appeal to the Supreme Court.

In a statement, the government said it "needs to bring forward a strong domestic legislative agenda. Proroguing Parliament is the legal and necessary way of delivering this."

It noted that another challenge to the suspension, brought by transparency campaigner Gina Miller, was rejected at the High Court in London last week.

## Netanyahu again offers West Bank annexation

The Washington Post

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday repeated his vow to extend Israeli sovereignty to large portions of the occupied West Bank if he is reelected, the latest in a string of campaign promises aimed at winning the support of right-wing voters.

Netanyahu said Israeli annexation of lands that Palestinians hope to gain for a future state would begin with the Jordan Valley, a swath of territory along the border with Jordan that many Israelis see as important for Israel's security.

The announcement, which he said reflected coordination with the Trump administration, was the most substantive in a flurry of appeals he has made to religious Jews, West Bank settlers and others in the right-wing camp ahead of the Sept. 17 elections. Opinion polls show Netanyahu's Likud party in a tight race with the Blue and White party of former army chief of staff Benny Gantz.

His closest allies say he could turn on Netanyahu's sus-

cense in wresting voters away from smaller, far-right parties, and in recent days he has been hammering at several issues designed to excite and alarm this modest, but perhaps strategic, constituency.

Netanyahu's remarks Tuesday were condemned by Palestinian leaders. Saeb Erekat, secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Organization, called on the international community to stop the annexation initiative before it "buries any remaining prospects for peace and a viable and independent Palestinian state."

In his presentation Tuesday, Netanyahu called on Israeli voters to ask themselves whom they preferred to lead negotiations over the expected White House peace plan, him or his rivals from the Blue and White party.

Gantz countered by saying that "the relationship between Israel and the United States is founded upon common interests and values, and it is stronger than any prime minister." But he also stressed that he has no intention of seeing Israel relinquish the Jordan Valley.



RAMON ESPINOSA/AP

## Bahamians receive donations

Aylon Minus, 8, collects donated food that was brought Tuesday by helicopter from Freeport to High Rock, Grand Bahama, Bahamas. Aid workers brought food and water, emergency workers searched for bodies, and Bahamians sought to salvage heirlooms as the area works to recover from damages inflicted by the Category 5 Hurricane Dorian.

## China to exempt 16 materials from tariff hikes in trade war

Associated Press

BEIJING — China on Wednesday announced it will exempt American industrial grease and some other imports from tariff increases in a trade war with Washington but kept in place penalties on soybeans and other major U.S. exports ahead of negotiations next month.

The move applies to raw materials for farmers and factories, suggesting Beijing wants to limit damage to its slowing economy from the fight with President Donald Trump over trade and technology.

It adds to indications that both sides might be settling in for extended conflict even as they prepare for talks in Washington aimed at ending the dispute that threatens global economic growth.

A list of 16 items including lubricants, fish meal for animal feed and some other chemicals will be exempt from penalties of up to 25% imposed in response to Trump's tariff increases on Chinese products, the Ministry of Finance said. Punitive duties

on soybeans, the biggest U.S. export to China, and thousands of other items were left unchanged.

"The exemption could be seen as a gesture of sincerity towards the U.S. ahead of negotiations in October but is probably more a means of supporting the economy," Iris Pang, of ING, said in a report.

Word that talks are going ahead has helped calm jittery financial markets. But there has been no sign of progress.

The two governments "are unlikely to reach a deal this year," said Pang.

Beijing's earlier tariff increases avoided processor chips and other U.S. technology required by Chinese industry.

Chinese leaders are resisting U.S. pressure to roll back plans for government-led creation of global competitors in robotics and other industries.

Washington, Europe, Japan and other trading partners say those plans violate China's market-opening commitments and are based on stealing or pressuring companies to hand over technology.

## Small German town elects neo-Nazi as mayor

The Washington Post

BERLIN — The decision of a small village in southwestern Germany to elect a candidate from a neo-Nazi party as mayor has sparked national outrage and soul searching, with efforts to reverse the decision underway on Tuesday.

Stefan Jagsch, a member of the ultranationalist National Democratic Party, which German authorities have tried to ban several times, ran unopposed to become leader of the local council in the village of Altenstadt-Waldsiedlung.

He was voted in unanimously on Thursday by other council members, including representatives of German Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Dem-

ocrats and her coalition partner the center-left Social Democrats.

One local council member from Merkel's party told a local broadcaster that his ability to send emails was more important than his party affiliation. In the village of just 2,600 residents, other candidates had not been forthcoming.

News of the decision quickly flung the village near Frankfurt into the national spotlight, drawing widespread outrage and con-



Jagsch

demnation from regional and national branches of the parties whose local representatives had supported the candidate.

Annegrit Kramp-Karrenbauer, Merkel's successor as head of the Christian Democrats, said it would investigate how members had backed Jagsch, calling for him to be deselected.

Jagsch, who also is deputy chairman for the neo-Nazi party in Hesse, has vowed to fight efforts to oust him.

Some have defended their decision.

"We are trying to help the people and address their issues, that's all," Norbert Szilakso, a council member for the Christian Democrats, told German TV station Deutsche Welle. "Party membership doesn't play a role for us."

## SHIFTING GEARS

## Cars go electric at Frankfurt Motor Show

By MICHAEL ABRAMS  
Stars and Stripes

FRANKFURT, Germany — If there were clouds over the Frankfurt Motor Show two years ago, there could be a storm brewing over this year's edition which opens at the city's fairsgrounds this week.

The scandal over cheating on diesel emission tests dampened the mood at the Internationale Automobil Ausstellung, or IAA, as it's called in German, the last time it was held was in 2017.

This year, the show was under multiple clouds before it even started.

First, the emissions scandal is still hanging over the car industry, and anti-automotive groups, who say not enough is being done to lower pollution from fossil fuel engines, plan to stage protests near the show over the weekend.

Next, after four pedestrians were killed by an out-of-control SUV in Berlin last week, some groups in Germany are calling for the popular vehicles to be banned in cities.

And many car manufacturers, including crowd-pleasers like Ferrari, Aston Martin and Rolls Royce, have decided not to participate in the show this year. The French are also missing, and Honda is the only Japanese manufacturer present.

Despite all the backfires, people attending the show will have plenty to see, starting with this year's ubiquitous offering — electric cars.

Every manufacturer at the show seems to have a car that is either full-electric or hybrid.

These aren't necessarily your typical family car. Porsche's Taycan Turbo S features an electric motor on each axle that powers the car to 60 mph in 3.2 seconds. The cost is about \$205,000.

Mercedes-Benz's 469-horsepower Vision EQS concept car, which is powered by two electric motors, is making its debut at the show. A production model of the car is expected, although Mercedes was unable to say exactly when.

Smaller, less powerful cars are also going electric or planning to. Smart, the company that makes

ultra-compact two-seaters, will offer an all-electric fleet next year.

Honda plans to do the same by 2025.

One of the world's biggest car-makers, Germany's Volkswagen — the company at the heart of the diesel emissions scandal — is also planning to go all-electric, possibly to get a jump on tougher European Union emission standards, which will start being phased in next year.

VW's new ID.3 drew large crowds Tuesday, when international media got a sneak peek at the show's offerings. A compact four-door, the ID.3 is expected to be available next year for around 30,000 euros, or \$33,200.

While Ford had "go electric" signs on display, they were showing only hybrid cars, albeit a full range of sizes and styles.

Jaguar featured a new, all-electric I-Pace, while their Land Rover division revived an icon of off-road travel, the Defender. Still powered by a traditional engine, the Defender will be available as a hybrid in the near future.

The future was on BMW's mind too. It showed a selection of concept cars including the sporty Vision M NEXT and the Concept 4, which will be available as hybrids or full-electric vehicles. The company's Mini division also displayed an electric car.

Visitors who tire of hybrids and electrics can visit hall 4.0, where vintage cars are on display.

In another hall, the new Lamborghini Sian, with its 6.5-liter, 785-horsepower engine, will delight those who love fast, gas-guzzling super sports cars and favor speed over the environment.

The IAA is open to the public 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. from this Saturday to Sunday, Sept. 22.

Admission is 13 euros on weekdays and 15 euros on weekends if tickets are bought online, 2 euros more at the box office. A family ticket for two adults and up to three children under the age of 14 costs 35 euros but can be bought only at the box office. Children under 7 get in free.

The IAA website is [www.iaa.de/en/cars](http://www.iaa.de/en/cars).

[abrams.mike@stripes.com](mailto:abrams.mike@stripes.com)  
Twitter: @stripes\_photog



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Mercedes-Benz is debuting its Vision EQS concept car at the Internationale Automobil Ausstellung in Frankfurt, Germany. Powered by two electric motors, it has a 469-horsepower rating. Almost all of the car companies have electric vehicles on display at the car show.



Above: Ford has a line of hybrid cars on display at the IAA in Frankfurt, including the hybrid version of the Puma. Top right: A Smart EQ fourtwo electric car is displayed. Bottom right: Audi is showing a range of electric concept cars under the AI name, including the AI:Trail, a four-wheel drive, off-road vehicle.



A VW ID.3 Buzz concept bus is displayed. Volkswagen has been teasing bus fans for years with a new model, and this electric version might go into production.



Not all cars at the IAA in Frankfurt are hybrids or electric. This Lamborghini Sian features a 6.5-liter, 785-horsepower engine.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Charges dropped in police military gear case

**MI** THETFORD TOWNSHIP — Charges were dropped against a Flint-area police chief arrested amid an investigation into his department's use of thousands of pieces of surplus military equipment, including parachutes and mine detectors.

The Flint Journal reported that a Genesee District Court judge ruled there was not enough evidence to send Thetford Township Police Chief Robert Kenny to trial for embezzlement and obstruction of justice.

Kenny was charged in August 2018 and placed on unpaid leave from the police department.

## Couple finds Civil War cannonballs after storm

**SC** FOLLY BEACH — A couple combing a South Carolina beach after Hurricane Dorian thought they'd discovered a large rock but soon realized they'd stumbled upon two Civil War-era cannonballs lodged in the sand.

Aaron Lattin told news outlets that he and his girlfriend encountered the 150-year-old relics on the edge of Folly Beach, about 10 miles from Charleston.

The Charleston County Sheriff's Office and U.S. Air Force explosive ordnance disposal experts inspected the artifacts and deemed them safe.

## 10 inmates playing football hurt by lightning

**LA** HOMER — The Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections said one state prison inmate was critically injured and nine others hurt by a lightning strike while they played flag football.

A news release said nine inmates were taken to the David Wade Correctional Center after treatment for cuts, bruises, headaches, dizziness and disorientation. The 10th remained hospitalized.

The statement said the prison in Homer clears the yard during potentially dangerous weather, but the lightning struck without warning, hitting the ground near the inmates.

## End of an era: Area's lone peep show closes

**NV** LAS VEGAS — An adult video and bookstore, which operated the Las Vegas area's lone peep show, has closed, marking the end of an era.

The Las Vegas Sun reported Showgirl Video shuttered last month and the building it occupied will soon be torn down to make way for a marijuana dispensary.

Showgirl Video was believed to be the last place in Las Vegas with a peep show — a place where dancers perform behind a window, which opened when a patron placed \$1 into a machine for tips.

In 1997, the city passed an ordinance banning sexually-oriented businesses along Las Vegas Bou-



ALAN WARREN, THE (OWENSBORO, KY.) MESSENGER-INQUIRER/AP

## Buffed-up bison

Jaleel Parris, left, and Colin Davis use paste wax to shine the "Into the Wind" bronze bison sculpture by T.D. Kelsey in the Ryan Sculpture Park at the Owensboro Museum of Fine Art in Owensboro, Ky., on Monday. The museum is getting ready for the 12th Annual Bronze Festival, Paintout and Gala on Sept. 26-28 in Owensboro.

levard, but Showgirl Video was grandfathered under old code and continued doing business.

## Disney bans woman for life over assault

**FL** ORLANDO — Authorities said a woman was banned for life from Walt Disney World in Florida after she allegedly hit a taxi driver and then kicked a deputy at the resort.

The Orange County Sheriff's Office said in an arrest report that Ellen McMillion hit the taxi driver several times outside Disney's Hollywood Studios.

A Disney security guard and a deputy working a detail at the park intervened.

The taxi driver told deputies that McMillion started hitting him after she asked him for a cigarette and he told her he didn't have one.

## Observation wheel to be permanent structure

**OH** CINCINNATI — A permanent 200-foot-high SkyStar observation wheel is coming to downtown Cincinnati next year.

A release from Game Day Communications said the 150-foot-high portable wheel is scheduled to be replaced in early 2020. The Cincinnati Enquirer reported the Hamilton County Com-

## THE CENSUS

**\$1K**

The amount of a reward Montana wildlife officials are offering for information in the shooting of possibly dozens of pelicans. State game wardens reported retrieving about a dozen dead pelicans along a stretch of the Bighorn River downstream of Yellowstone Dam. Fish, Wildlife and Parks

spokesman Robert Gibson said the birds are being killed with a shotgun. Pelicans are protected under federal law as migratory birds.

missioners unanimously voted for the permanent structure.

## Police arrest 8 boys in SUV theft, other crimes

**CO** COLORADO SPRINGS — Police in Colorado arrested eight boys they say took part in stealing and crashing a sport-utility vehicle and committing several other crimes.

Colorado Springs police said the crimes began with the theft of the Toyota 4Runner.

Police allege people in the Toyota fired shots at a home. Nobody was hurt but police said a boy later stole from a liquor store before fleeing in the SUV.

Calls came in later that boys in the SUV stole a diaper bag and backpack from a woman at gunpoint and pointed a gun at another vehicle.

The Colorado Springs Gazette reported the Toyota later collided with another vehicle and police arrested eight boys ranging in age from 12 to 17.

## Man accused of driving at officer arrested

**MD** PERRYVILLE — A Maryland man who police said drove a stolen vehicle at an officer attempting to arrest him was taken into custody in Virginia after a multistate chase.

Maryland State Police said William H. Galvin, 29, of Hughesville was arrested at a trailer in Front Royal.

Police said the pursuit began in Ocean City, Md., and continued through Delaware before reentering Maryland in Cecil County.

Police alleged that at one point during the chase, Galvin drove toward a Perryville Police Department officer as the officer and other police were trying to arrest him.

## Tap water turns pink in state's capital city

**NY** ALBANY — That's not rose flowing from your faucet.

The tap water in parts of New York's capital turned pink recently, but officials said it was perfectly safe to drink.

The Albany Water Department said the coloration is the result of a pass-through of sodium permanganate, a chemical used in the treatment process.

The water department said the pink water was also safe to use for cooking and bathing, but laundry should be avoided.

Sodium permanganate is used to control the taste and odor of tap water.

## Steel Curtain is best new roller coaster

**PA** WEST MIFFLIN — A western Pennsylvania amusement park's newest and biggest attraction won an industry award as best new roller coaster of the year.

Kennedywood's Steel Curtain won the Golden Ticket honor for best new coaster awarded by Amusement Today, an industry publication.

The Steel Curtain is in the park's new Steelers Country section, a collaboration with the Pittsburgh Steelers. The 4,000-foot-long coaster contains nine inversions, which park officials say is the most in North America, and the world's tallest inversion at 197 feet. It also placed second as 2019's best new attraction installation.

From wire reports

## FACES



## After cornering the market on creepy white men, Bradley Whitford is ready to lighten up

By GREG BRAXTON  
Los Angeles Times

**F**or Bradley Whitford, being bad has had its benefits.

Since first attracting notice with his Emmy-winning portrayal of White House Deputy Chief of Staff Josh Lyman in "The West Wing," the veteran character actor has been a steady presence in several TV series and films, including "Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip," "Trophy Wife," "The Cabin in the Woods" and "Saving Mr. Banks." His specialty has been playing intelligent guys who may have a bit of an edge.

Whitford's career received a jolt in the past few years, with revelatory portrayals of dangerous, menacing characters in high-profile projects. His role as an awkwardly pleasant neurosurgeon with a sinister racist agenda in Jordan Peele's film "Get Out" was highly praised, and his work on Hulu's "The Handmaid's Tale" as the ominous and contradictory Commander Lawrence, one of the key architects of the oppressive Gilead, has earned him an Emmy nomination for guest actor.

That momentum, after a résumé full of supporting and featured roles, has finally led Whitford to his first solo lead, starring in NBC's new comedy "Perfect Harmony." This time around, he's breaking good (well, sort of), playing a decent guy with more than a few chips on his shoulder.

Whitford regards "Perfect Harmony" as the latest highlight in a career that has taken on new vitality. In addition to having his name above the title, he's also an executive producer.

"It's an obnoxiously good and lucky time for me," Whitford said with a knowing, good-natured laugh. "My wheelhouse seems to be playing creepy white privilege." But the challenge of taking on figures whose political philosophies are diametrically opposed to his own liberal views — and the success he's had doing so — has given him the confidence to take more risks as a performer.

If professional accolades weren't enough, he recently got married to Amy Landecker, who also appears in "The Handmaid's Tale." The couple met around five years ago when they were in the cast of "Transparent." (He previously was married to actress Jane Kaczmarek. They divorced in 2010.)

**"It's an obnoxiously good and lucky time for me," Whitford said with a knowing, good-natured laugh. "My wheelhouse seems to be playing creepy white privilege."**

**Bradley Whitford appears in a scene from "Perfect Harmony." After playing a sinister racist in "Get Out" and an oppressor of women in "The Handmaid's Tale," Whitford gets his first leading TV role as a professor who finds meaning in his life when he becomes a choir director.**  
NBC/AR

Whitford is still getting used to his heightened celebrity. He is particularly amused by the "very weird" phenomenon of young black men who recognize him and want to take selfies, "with me acting like I'm auctioning them off."

"Perfect Harmony" stars Whitford as Arthur Cochran, a former Princeton music professor who feels he has little to live for after the death of his wife. But when he happens upon a small-town choir that lacks the requisite chemistry, the crusty Cochran finds new purpose in trying to get the singers in sync. The members of the choir in turn believe Cochran might be the answer to their prayers to deal with their dysfunction and help them in competitions.

While the series is worlds away from the gloom and doom of "Get Out" and "The Handmaid's Tale," there's still a hint of darkness and bitterness in Cochran. The concept is a showcase for Whitford's slow-burn, dryly comic delivery.

Executive producer Lesley Lake Webster, who created the series, said she felt the role was a perfect fit for Whitford: "When we first met to talk about the show, it was a real whiplash for him. The night before, he had been filming 'The Handmaid's Tale.' Bradley can do horrible things onscreen and you still love him. Here he's playing this very damaged human being hiding his wounds, behind his intellect. He's not afraid to go full throttle for the verbal or the physical joke, and he's not afraid to make himself look silly."

Although "Perfect Harmony" has elements of "Glee," "Sister Act" and "Pitch Perfect" (the show co-stars Anna Camp of the latter franchise), both Webster and Whitford said it has plenty of originality as well as optimism.

"It's about being celebratory and joyful and enjoying all the things we have in common," Webster said. Or as Whitford puts it, "You can't be mad with people you're singing with."

He's not concerned about being compared to similar projects. "Glee" was constantly stampeeding toward a musical production number," he said, while "Perfect Harmony" has the more varied goal of finding humor in attaining understanding amid conflict.

"I call it 'Hoosiers' meets 'Glee,'" Whitford said with a chuckle.

## Nielsen to start counting viewers outside of home

From wire reports

Television networks will be happy to know that ratings will go up for many of their programs next year, simply because the Nielsen company will be counting more people.

The company whose numbers provide the currency for the TV industry said it will start including measurements of people who watch TV outside of their home or on portable devices in its weekly averages. That's been a long time coming for networks, who have been prodding Nielsen to find a way to count people watching in bars or offices.

Based on its tests, Nielsen predicts that its count of people watching sports events will go up 11 percent. For news programming, the increase is expected to average 7 percent.

NBC won last week's ratings competition with the help of the NFL's return.



Warner Bros. Records

**Green Day will tour in support of a new album, "Father of All ...," in 2020.**

## Green Day announces tour with Weezer, Fall Out Boy

Green Day on Tuesday announced a 2020 summer stadium concert tour with Weezer and Fall Out Boy. The Hella Mega Tour is scheduled to visit 19 cities in the U.S. and one in Canada. It opens July 17 at Seattle's T-Mobile Park and concludes Aug. 29 at Philadelphia's Citizens Bank Park. The tour will follow the release of new albums by all three bands: Green Day's "Father of All ...," due Feb. 7; Fall Out Boy's "Greatest Hits: Believers Never Die - Volume Two," out Nov. 15; and Weezer's "Van Weezer," to be released on a yet-to-be-specified date in May.

## Hayek says she wants to protect Mexico's image

Salma Hayek said she refrains from using social media to comment on problems in her native Mexico because she wants to protect the country's image.

During an appearance Tuesday to promote her Netflix series "Monarca" on a family's tequila empire, the actress was asked why she doesn't use her social media presence to draw more attention to Mexico's ills.

Hayek said she doesn't believe a post on her Instagram account can change things because most of her followers don't live in Mexico.

At the same time, she added, a critical post puts negative attention on Mexico elsewhere in the world, and "that can affect us with tourism, with people who are trying to invest in Mexico." She said she doesn't want to hurt her country.

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## OPINION

## Bolton's departure resets Iran policy

By JASON REZAIAN

The Washington Post

Whether national security adviser John Bolton was fired by President Donald Trump or he quit is irrelevant. The change in foreign policy leadership will have a profound impact on how this administration's Iran policy is shaped and implemented.

While it's fair to call both Bolton and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo hawkish on Iran, their posturing on best practices for dealing with Tehran have always differed.

Bolton favored the ever-present threat of military action against the Islamic Republic and has often openly advocated for it, including the episode in June when Trump approved military strikes in response to the downing of a U.S. drone, which he abruptly aborted when he learned the projected casualties.

Bolton, though, thought the attacks should proceed as planned. For decades, he has been consistent in his contempt for the leaders in Iran — and other longtime adversaries — and not shy about how he would spill innocent blood sometimes to reach what he perceived to be U.S. strategic goals.

His absence also means that the Mujahideen-e Khalq, or MEK, a reviled Iranian opposition group that long lived on the State Department's list of foreign terrorist groups, no longer has a powerful ally in the White House.

The now former national security adviser and ambassador to the United Nations is one of dozens of U.S. politicians, including Rudy Giuliani, to accept large speaking

fees in exchange for publicly advocating the organization as a viable replacement for the Islamic Republic.

The MEK can claim no popular support, and among Iranians of nearly all political orientations, inside the country and in the diaspora, it was Bolton's paid alliance with the cultlike group that made him such an odious character.

With the MEK suddenly nowhere in the conversation, ordinary Iranians who would prefer to see their government negotiate its way out of the sanctions that currently have a stranglehold on the country's economy will be more inclined than ever to support such a process with U.S. leaders.

And those millions of Iranians who prefer a regime change can be more confident now that the United States has no serious plans to install the hated group if the Islamic Republic were ever toppled.

Either way, when it comes to Iran, the Trump administration's hands are no longer tied by Bolton, an ideologue who views diplomacy as a weakness rather than a tool.

The shake-up creates the first real opportunity for Trump to pursue a policy of engaging Iran, which both he and Pompeo have publicly advocated for since this administration's decision to exit the 2015 nuclear accord with the Islamic Republic.

Bolton assumed duties as the national security adviser in April 2018, a month before Trump pulled out of the deal. Although Trump threatened to do so long before he took office, the timing probably pleased Bolton, as he loved to be seen as tough on Iran.

## Hong Kong's summer of dissent puts heat on Beijing

By GEORGE F. WILL

Washington Post Writers Group

The masked men who recently tossed firebombs at Jimmy Lai's home targeted one of this city's foremost democracy advocates. Lai, a 71-year-old media billionaire, calls this summer's ongoing protest "a martyrdom movement" and "a last-straw movement." It has an intensity and dynamic that bewilders the protesters' opponents in Beijing and in Hong Kong's Beijing-obedient city administration.

Today's mostly young protesters will be middle-aged in 2047, at the expiration of the 50-year agreement that ostensibly accords Hong Kong protected status as an island of freedom. Beijing attempted to whittle away that status with a proposed 2003 law against "subversion." And by devastating suffrage by the 2017 requirement that candidates for the chief executive receive approval from a Beijing-loyal committee. And by this year's extradition bill that would have facilitated sweeping Hong Kongers into the maw of China's opaque criminal-justice system.

Monday's New York Times carried a full-page ad paid for by "the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China." Which means, effectively, by the Chinese Communist Party. The ad said: "We are resolutely committed to One Country, Two Systems" which provides the constitutional guarantee for Hong Kong's continued development and success as a free and open society." The ad pledged "dialogue to talk through differences and look for common ground with no preconditions."

But the "one country, two systems" formulation, agreed to in 1997, when British

authority ended, as a 50-year framework for Hong Kong's relations with the PRC, is an inherently menacing precondition. And Beijing's consistently sinister behavior reeks of authoritarianism, as implacable as it is predictable, to incrementally nullify "one nation, two systems" by reducing Hong Kong to just another jurisdiction wholly subservient to China's deepening tyranny. For Leninists such as Xi Jinping wielding a party-state, nothing is more important than the party's unchallenged primacy. Another "Tiananmen Square" — a Hong Kong massacre — would be calamitous for China's Leninist rule, but less so than weakening the Communist Party's primacy. The party is, Lai says, "detached from reality" and "will always make the wrong decision" as it tries to become "the most absolute dictatorship in human history."

In 1940, Winston Churchill warned against a "new Dark Age made more sinister, and perhaps more protracted, by the lights of modern science." That is China's aspiration with "digital Leninism," an application of science through manipulative technologies that neither Churchill nor his contemporary, George Orwell, anticipated. With a steadily refined repression apparatus, aptly called "cyber-totalitarianism," China's surveillance state is enmeshing everyone in a "social credit" system. Individuals' cumulative commercial and social-media transactions give them a score that determines their access to education, housing, clinics, travel and more, even including pet ownership. Although China's published statistics are as untrustworthy as the regime itself, there are reasons to believe that in this decade China has spent more on "stability maintenance" than on its military. Hong Kong is watching this. And Hong Kong is reading Ma Jian's dystopian novel "China Dream," which is

It was yet another reason Bolton's mere presence in the administration — and at such a high level — made talks between the Trump administration and Tehran all but impossible.

Trump and Pompeo must now make a clear choice and stick with it: actively pursue a new deal with Iran's leadership as Trump has promised to do since he was a candidate or continue with the disingenuous charade that is their "maximum pressure" campaign, a policy that has only had the discernible effect of making the lives of average Iranians more miserable.

Trump and Pompeo have time and again probed the possibility of new talks, without preconditions, on the table. Now they can prove it. Bolton's departure, two weeks before the annual United Nations General Assembly session, puts the ball squarely in Tehran's court.

If President Hassan Rouhani and his foreign minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, refuse the offer to meet with their U.S. counterparts while in New York, it is they who will suddenly appear to be the unreasonable party.

The only thing that can be said for Bolton's position on Iran was that it was clear, but he was a liability from the moment he joined this administration. The ways in which his ouster might change the direction of Trump's Iran policy will prove it.

Jason Rezaian is a writer for The Washington Post's Global Opinions. He served as The Post's correspondent in Tehran from 2012 to 2016. He spent 54 days in custody, tortured by Iranian authorities until his release in January 2016.

banned in mainland China but not here. The protagonist is Ma Daoe, director of the fictional (so far) China Dream Bureau, which aspires to "replace all private dreams" with one communal dream. Ma Daoe hopes to develop "a neural implant" as a device whereby "directives" like a button and government judgments will be transferred wirelessly into the brains of the governed. This is not much more Orwellian than China's evolving reality.

In her 1951 "The Origins of Totalitarianism," Hannah Arendt argued that a tyrannical regime, wielding bureaucracy and mass media, could achieve permanence by conscripting the citizenry's consciousness. This echoed Orwell's foreboding: "Imagined a boot stamping on a human face — forever." In 1956, Arendt thought her theory had been refuted by a fact — the Hungarian Revolution, which demonstrated that no state can interrupt "all channels of communication." Hong Kong sees Beijing using new technologies in the service of an evil permanence.

"To see what is in front of one's nose," wrote Orwell, "needs a constant struggle." Belatedly, the world is seeing. The Economist recently editorialized: "The West's 25-year bet on China has failed." The wager was that "market totalitarianism" is an oxymoron. Embedding China in the global economy supposedly would open it to the softening effects of commerce, which would be solvents of authoritarianism. The West's tardy but welcome disenchantment is, as The Economist says, "the starkest reversal in modern geopolitics." If Hong Kong's heroic refusal to go gentle into Beijing's dark night is accelerating this disenchantment, the summer of dissent has been this decade's grandest and most important development.

# BUSINESS/WEATHER



TONY AVELAR/AP

Apple CEO Tim Cook talks about the latest iPhone during an event to announce new products Tuesday in Cupertino, Calif.

## Apple focuses its efforts on iPhone 11's cameras

By REX CRUM

(The San Jose, Calif.) Mercury News

CUPPERTINO, Calif. — Apple on Tuesday kicked off its annual holiday season push by introducing new iPhones that could test the limits of consumers' spending plans and pricing its Apple TV+ service at a level meant to undercut other streaming TV rivals.

In an event held at the Steve Jobs Theater on the Apple Park campus in Cupertino, Apple emphasized the camera technologies in each of the three new iPhone models. The least expensive new phone, the iPhone 11, comes with a 6.1-inch screen and a starting price tag of \$699. For that, customers will receive a dual-camera system with wide and ultra-wide camera lenses.

However, with its new iPhone 11 Pro and iPhone 11 Pro Max, Apple put even more focus on photographers. Both phones have

12-megapixel wide, telephoto and ultra-wide systems as well as enhanced technologies to improve photos and videos — and appeal to professional customers.

The iPhone 11 Pro has a 5.8-inch screen, and it starts at \$999 for 64 gigabytes of storage; the Pro Max version comes with a 6.5-inch diagonal screen and \$1,099 sticker price. The Pro Max could go up to a whopping \$1,449 with a maximum 512 gigabytes of storage included.

"The 'pro' branding is an indication of how serious Apple wants to go after the high-end photography and video market," said Mark Vena, senior analyst with Moor Insights & Strategy. "Clearly they are enhancing the positioning of the iPhone at the high end to go after the professional videographer and photographer segment."

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE  
Associated Press

CUPERTINO, Calif. — Apple is finally taking on Netflix with its own streaming television service and, uncharacteristically for the company, offering it at a bargain price — \$5 a month beginning on Nov. 1.

Walt Disney Co. is launching its own assault on Netflix the same month, for just \$7.

It may be sheer coincidence that the cost of paying for both Apple and Disney subscriptions will still be a dollar less than Netflix's main plan, priced at \$13 a month. But the intent to disrupt Netflix's huge lead in the streaming business couldn't be clearer.

The aggressive pricing is unusual for Apple, which typically charges a premium for products and services to burnish its brand. Most analysts expected Apple to charge \$8 to \$10 per month for the service, which will be called Apple TV Plus.

But Apple is entering a market that Netflix practically created in 2007 — around the same time as the first iPhone came out. And Netflix has amassed more than 150 million subscribers, meaning that Apple needed to make a splash.

"You have to expect they're going to do something, considering how hypercompetitive the streaming video space is," said Tim Hanlon, CEO of Vertere Group.

Apple CEO Tim Cook did not have much new to say about the TV service beyond its pricing and debut date, although he did show

a trailer for a new Jason Momoa-led series called "See."

Netflix declined to comment. In the past, Netflix CEO Reed Hastings has depicted the increased competition as a positive for everyone, allowing consumers to create their own entertainment bundles instead of accepting bundles put together at higher prices by cable and satellite TV services.

Like Netflix and similar services from Amazon and Hulu, Apple has been spending billions of dollars for original programs. The most anticipated so far seems to be "The Morning Show," a comedy starring Jennifer Aniston, Reese Witherspoon and Steve Carell. The service will launch with nine original shows and films, with more expected each month. It will carry only Apple's original programming and will be available in 100 countries at launch.

Apple also announced a new videogame subscription service that will cost \$5 a month when it rolls out Sept. 19. Called Apple

Arcade, the service will allow subscribers to play more than 100 games selected by Apple that are exclusive to the service.

Disney, one of the most haloed brands in entertainment, is also muscling its way into the market with a streaming service featuring its treasured vault of films and original programming.

### EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Sept. 12)	\$1.1306
Dollar buys (Sept. 12)	€0.8845
British pound (Sept. 12)	\$1.27
Japanese yen (Sept. 12)	105.00
South Korean won (Sept. 12)	1,162.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.2332
Canada (Dollar)	1.3159
China (Yuan)	7.1164
Denmark (Krone)	6.7850
Egypt (Pound)	16.3897
Euro	\$1.0996/0.9094
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8398
Hungary (Forint)	302.85
Israel (Shekel)	3.5432
Japan (Yen)	107.74
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3041
Norway (Krone)	8.9787
Philippines (Peso)	52.14
Poland (Zloty)	3.34
Saudi (Riyal)	3.7517
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3797
South Korea (Won)	1,192.70
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9833
Thailand (Baht)	36.559
Turkey (Lira)	0.7544

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance. For Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, nonmilitary exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

### INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.25
Discount rate	2.75
Federal funds market rate	2.13
3-month bill	1.89
30-year bond	2.18

### MARKET WATCH

Sept. 10, 2019

Dow Jones industrials	73.92
	26,909.43
Nasdaq composite	-3.28
	8,064.15
Standard & Poor's 500	0.96
	2,979.39
Russell 2000	18.76
	1,542.99

## WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.






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## SPORTS BRIEFS/GOLF

## Briefly

# S. Korea asks IOC to ban 'rising sun' flag at Olympics

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea has formally asked the International Olympic Committee to ban the Japanese "rising sun" flag at next year's Tokyo Games, calling it a symbol of Japan's brutal wartime past and comparing it with the Nazi swastika.

South Korea's Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism on Wednesday said it sent a letter to IOC President Thomas Bach expressing "deep disappointment and concern" over Japanese plans to allow the flag in stadiums and other facilities during the 2020 Olympics.

South Korean Olympic officials last month urged the local organizing committee to ban the flag, but Tokyo organizers responded by saying it was widely used in Japan, was not considered a political statement and "it is not viewed as a prohibited item."

The flag, portraying a red sun with 16 rays extending outward, is resented by many South Koreans, who still harbor animosity over Japan's 1910-1945 colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula.

The ministry described the flat in its letter to Bach as an unmistakable political symbol that's embraced by Japanese right-wing protesters who vent anger toward Koreans and other foreigners. It said the flag recalls "historic scars and pain" for the people of South Korea, China and other Asian countries that experienced Japan's wartime military aggression, similar to how the ("swastika") reminds Europeans of the nightmare of World War II.

The ministry said it also pointed out that FIFA, the governing body of world soccer, has banned the flag in international matches.

"Furthermore, we emphasized that the use of the rising sun flag during the Tokyo Olympics would be a direct violation of the Olympic spirit promoting world peace and love for humanity, and that the IOC should have the Tokyo organizing committee withdraw its (current) stance on the flag and prepare strict measures to prevent it from being brought to stadiums," the ministry said. Tokyo's Olympic organizing committee didn't immediately react to South Korea's request to the IOC to ban the flag at the games.

## Morris' late goal gives US 1-1 tie vs. Uruguay

ST. LOUIS — Jordan Morris scored his first international goal in more than two years in the 79th

minute, giving the United States a 1-1 tie against Uruguay in an exhibition game on Tuesday night.

Brian Rodriguez, a 19-year-old Los Angeles FC forward who made his international debut in Friday's 2-1 win at Costa Rica, put fifth-ranked Uruguay ahead off a counterattack in the 50th minute. Rodriguez took a pass from Federico Valverde, dribbled around defender Aaron Long and beat goalkeeper Brad Guzan to the near post with a 25-footed shot for his first international goal.

Morris scored after Jose Gimenez's attempted clearance near the end line bounced of American defender Nick Lima and bounded in front of the open goal. Morris chested the ball in for his sixth international goal, his first since the 2017 CONCACAF Gold Cup final against Jamaica. Morris tore his right anterior cruciate ligament in February 2018 while playing with Seattle and did not return to the national team until March 2019.

Morris' goal was the first for the 22nd-ranked U.S. since Christian Pulisic's 87th-minute strike in the CONCACAF Gold Cup semifinal win over Jamaica. The Americans have not been blanked in three straight games since 2009.

## Jets WR Enunwa out for season with neck injury

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. — Quincy Enunwa's season is over after his second neck injury in just over two years.

The New York Jets wide receiver was hurt Sunday in the season-opening loss to Buffalo and told the team's medical staff Monday that he wasn't feeling right physically and had several tests.

The 27-year-old Enunwa missed the entire 2017 season after injuring his neck in training camp. He had bulging disks in his neck that required surgery, but it wasn't immediately certain if the two injuries are related. Coach Adam Gase also wouldn't speculate if the latest injury could threaten Enunwa's career, saying "there's a lot of steps left here" before that will be determined.

The Jets are getting some roster help at the position.

New York acquired wide receiver Demaryius Thomas from the Patriots for a 2021 sixth-round draft pick on Tuesday, according to a person with direct knowledge of the deal.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the teams had not yet announced the trade.



PETER MORRISON/AP

Stacy Lewis, right, talks to Jessica Korda, center, and Nelly Korda of the US on the 16th hole during a practice round for the Solheim Cup on Wednesday. Lewis, one of the few veterans on the team, won't play because of a back injury. The Solheim Cup runs Sept. 13-15 at Glenagles in Scotland.

# Youthful Americans seek three-peat in Solheim Cup

By STEVE DOUGLAS

Associated Press

The United States had already brought one of its most inexperienced teams in Solheim Cup history to Scotland this week when a back injury nagging Stacy Lewis flared up in practice.

Out went one of the Americans' few seasoned players — a major champion and a former world No. 1.

In came another rookie in Ally McDonald, lifting the number of debutantes in the 12-woman team to six.

The chances of a U.S. three-peat just got that much tougher.

The Solheim Cup — women's golf's premier team event — starts on Friday at Glenagles with U.S. captain Juli Inkster billing it as the veterans vs. the rookies.

"We'll just have to see how it plays out," Inkster said. "We could get creamed or we could make a match of it."

**'We'll just have to see how it plays out. We could get creamed or we could make a match of it.'**

Juli Inkster  
US captain

Seeking a record-tying third straight victory over Europe, the U.S. has only four players left over from the win in Iowa in 2017 — Lexi Thompson, Danielle Kang, Lizette Salas and Angel Yin. Nine of the team are playing in their first away matches in the Solheim Cup.

There are only a combined 14 previous appearances on the whole squad, with Lewis' withdrawal robbing the team of a four-time Solheim Cupper. There's no Cristie Kerr (nine appearances), Paula Creamer (seven appearances) or Michelle Wie (five appearances).

Throw in the fact that the Americans have lost both of their previous matches in Scotland — at Dalmahoy in 1992 and at Loch Lomond in 2000 — and there's a lot going the European team's way.

"I have a question mark on how they are going to respond to playing in Scotland in front of those crowds," said Inkster, who was captain in 2015 and '17. "There's a lot up in the air — the weather is such a huge factor in everything — and it depends on how

they handle it."

The Europeans trail 10-5 overall but four of their five victories have come at home. They might take inspiration from Europe's win in the Ryder Cup at Glenagles in 2014.

Like with Paul McGinley five years ago, Europe has a diligent, calm captain who comes alive in the team room and has the Solheim Cup in her blood. Catriona Matthew has played in nine matches, most recently in 2017 when she won three points from a possible four to move into third place on the all-time points list with 22.

Now she is captaining the team in her home country.

"If we win, it will be right up there with my best days in golf," said Matthew, who won the Women's British Open in 2009.

By selecting Suzann Pettersen as a wild card, Matthew has brought onto the team a player with just three tournaments to her name in the past two years — she has had injuries and took time off last year to have a baby — but also the experience of eight previous appearances.

The last one stands out.

At the 2015 Solheim Cup at St. Leon-Rot in Germany, Pettersen refused to concede a short putt to Alison Lee on the 17th hole of a tight fourballs match before the singles. There were tears and angry exchanges, and it stoked a fire inside the Americans as they fought back from 10-6 down going into the singles to win 14½-13½.

Four years on, the Solheim Cup still burns strongly inside the Norwegian.

"Catriona's gone a little bit out of the way to put me on the team and I'll take that pressure," Pettersen said.

"I feel I was born for this match."

There are three rookies on the European team — Anne van Dam, Celine Boutier and Bronte Law — but seven players who have featured in at least three Solheim Cups.

There was a minor alarm this week when the clubs of wild-card pick Jodi Ewart Shadoff failed to arrive in Scotland following a trans-Atlantic flight. They turned up two days later.

In every other respect, Europe appears fully ready for the Americans.

## BASKETBALL/NHL



PHOTOS BY NG HAN GUAN/AP

France's Rudy Gobert dunks as United States' Brook Lopez, left, and Derrick White look on during Wednesday's quarterfinal at the World Cup in Dongguan, China. Gobert had 21 points and 16 rebounds in France's 89-79 upset of the U.S.

# France knocks off US

## Americans will leave World Cup without medal

By TIM REYNOLDS  
Associated Press

DONGGUAN, China — No gold. No medal. No more winning streak.

The U.S. reign atop international basketball has ended — this time, thwarted by France at the World Cup.

For the first time since 2006, the U.S. sent NBA players to a major international tournament and won't win gold. Evan Fournier scored 22 points, Rudy Gobert had 21 points and 16 rebounds and France beat the U.S. 89-79 in the World Cup quarterfinals on Wednesday, rallying from a seven-point fourth-quarter deficit to pull off the upset.

"Any loss hurts," U.S. coach Gregg Popovich said. "And in this situation, it hurts more. But life goes on. This is very important and we would have loved to have won ... but we're all grown, we all have families and lives and life goes on."

The U.S. had won 58 consecutive tournament games in FIBA and Olympic competition, starting with the bronze-medal game at the 2006 world championships and continuing through every FIBA Americas, World Cup and Olympics event since. It was bidding to become the first nation to win three consecutive World Cups, after winning three straight Olympic golds in that span.

The best the Americans can do now in China is finish fifth, and they're assured of their finest finish in a big tournament with NBA players since placing sixth at the 2002 world championships. They're going home with a berth in the 2020 Olympics secured but no medal.

Donovan Mitchell scored 29 points for



France's Mathias Lessort, left, hugs teammate Evan Fournier as they celebrate beating the United States.

the U.S., all of them coming in the first three quarters. The Americans came up scoreless on six consecutive possessions down the stretch, the drought that allowed the French to take control of a back-and-forth game for the final time.

"Just got to take it like a man at this point," U.S. guard Kemba Walker said. "We lost. There's nothing we can do. We competed. We've been competing since day one that we got to training camp. But we gave it everything we've got. I know we're Team USA and things of that nature and they've been winning for a lot of years, but you know, we didn't get a chance to pull it off."

Nando De Colo scored 18 for France. The French held the U.S. to 4-for-15 shooting in the fourth quarter — and benefited from the Americans going 4-for-11 from the foul line in the final 10 minutes.

"We came here to win gold," Gobert said. "We knew it wasn't going to be easy. A lot of people counted us out, but we got the win."

Gobert said beating the Americans wasn't the goal — winning gold is.

"It doesn't mean anything if you don't win in the end," Gobert said.

France was up 10 early in the second half. The U.S. went on a 31-14 run over the next 10 minutes to go up by seven. And then the French responded with a 15-2 run over the next five minutes, going up 82-76 on a long jumper by Frank Ntilikina with 2:05 left.

Mitchell had a chance to get the U.S. within two with about a minute left, driving against Gobert — but the Utah center read what the Utah guard was going to do perfectly, swatting the try away.

# Many NHL free agents yet to sign

By STEPHEN WHYNO  
Associated Press

P.K. Subban doesn't want to give advice to all the unsigned young players around the NHL. He just vividly remembers his own experience as a restricted free agent.

Before he signed a short, so-called "bridge" contract, he took some motherly advice.

"My mom picked up the phone and called me and said: 'P.K., listen, you're young still. You have lots of time. If you're ready to go and play, go play,'" Subban recalled. "And I went and played and won the Norris Trophy."

Almost a dozen prominent restricted free agents remain unsigned on the eve of training camps around

the league, and several situations threaten to linger into the season, like Subban in 2013 and Toronto's William Nylander a year ago. Maple Leafs teammate Mitch Marner, Tampa Bay's Brayden Point, Philadelphia's Ivan Provorov and Travis Konecny, Colorado's Mikko Rantanen, Boston's Charlie McAvoy and Brandon Carlo, and Winnipeg's Patrik Laine and Kyle Connor could all be conspicuously absent when camps open this week.

"Everybody's waiting on somebody to make a move," Toronto center Auston Matthews said. "I'm surprised there's lots of guys. It's not just (Marner). You've got a lot of really good players that aren't signed yet. I guess everybody's just kind of playing the waiting game."

Dominoes could start to fall after Columbus signed restricted free agent defenseman Zach Werenski to a \$15 million, three-year deal and New Jersey gave forward Pavel Zacha \$6.75 million for three years. The salary cap is a concern: Toronto will have to use long-term injury allowance to get Marner under contract, Tampa Bay has less than \$9 million in cap space for Point, Boston is roughly \$7 million under with McAvoy and Carlo unsigned, and Winnipeg has \$15 million for both Laine and Connor.

"The team has you in a certain situation where you have no rights, so you don't have much of a say," Boston defenseman Torey Krug said. "That's how it's set up. Those guys will make their big bucks later on or whatever. It's just how it works."

Krug said, "If you just look at the star power, it's potentially damaging to some teams" if they can't get their restricted free agents signed in time for the start of the season. Nylander missed the first two months last season when contract talks were at an impasse. Things could also drag out with Marner and others.

On his own experience, Krug said, he thinks it can be a distraction not to have key players in camp. He also believes what players are doing in their downtime matters.

"Are they still training, or are they sitting there putting and wondering, 'When am I going to sign and when do I actually have to get out of the camp things up?' he said. "It's a different circumstance for all players."

**'If you just look at the star power, it's potentially damaging to some teams.'**

**Torey Krug**  
Boston  
defenseman

**SEE SCOREBOARD ON PAGE 29**



# MLB



WILFREDO LEE/AP

**The Brewers' Christian Yelich sits on the ground after injuring his knee while at bat during the first inning against the Marlins on Tuesday in Miami.**

## Scoreboard

### FROM PAGE 28

#### Mets 3, Diamondbacks 2

Arizona	ab	r	b	New York	ab	r	b
Marte cf	4	1	2	McNell lf	4	0	0
Florio 2b	5	0	0	Alonso 1b	4	0	0
Escobar 3b	4	1	2	Conforto rf	4	1	0
Walker lb	4	0	1	Ramos c	4	0	0
Rojas if	2	0	0	Cano 3b	3	2	2
Jones rf	4	0	1	Rosario ss	2	1	0
Almedas ss	4	0	2	Nimmo cf	2	0	0
Avila c	3	0	0	Lagares c	0	0	0
C Kelly ph	0	0	0	Frazier 3b	3	0	2
Gallen p	2	0	0	Wheeler p	1	0	0
Lamb ph	1	0	1	Gulimlie ph	1	0	0
Sherby p	0	0	0	Brach p	0	0	0
Cron ph	0	0	0	Wilson p	0	0	0
Crichton p	1	0	1				
Locastro pr	0	0	0				
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Arizona</b>				<b>Arizona</b>			
W 5	2	0	0	W 10	0	0	2
L 2	0	0	0	L 2	0	0	0
IP 8	1	0	0	IP 8	1	0	0
DP—Arizona 0, New York 2, LOB—Arizona 9, New York 4, 2B—Marte (32), Conforto (26), Frazier (27), Cano (24), HR—Escobar (34), SB—Marte (10), Rojas (2).							
<b>Arizona</b>				<b>Arizona</b>			
Gallen L-2-2	6	5	3	2	9		
Brach H-1	0	0	0	0	1		
McFarland	1	0	0	0	0		
Crichton	1	0	0	0	0		
<b>New York</b>				<b>New York</b>			
Wheeler W-11-7	7	7	1	2	7		
Brach H-1	0	0	0	0	0		
Wilson S-2-2	1	2	0	0	1		
T—3SDZ, A—20, 843 (41,922).							

Wild-card race				
AMERICAN LEAGUE				
	W	L	Pct	WCGB
Tampa Bay	87	59	.596	—
Oakland	85	60	.586	—
Cleveland	85	61	.582	½
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
	W	L	Pct	WCGB
Washington	79	64	.552	—
Chicago	77	67	.535	—
Milwaukee	76	68	.528	1
Philadelphia	75	69	.521	2
Arizona	75	70	.517	2½
New York	74	70	.514	3

# Dodgers: Team still can clinch best record in majors, home field throughout playoffs

### FROM BACK PAGE

It was the second-earliest clinching of the NL West behind the 1975 Cincinnati Reds, who accomplished the feat on Sept. 7. Sure, the celebration was inevitable. So what? "When we do get moments like this, I think we do a good job of appreciating what we have accomplished and it's special. It really is," Roberts said. "To win one division, but to win seven in a row, the consistency of the organization, what we've done, a lot of credit goes to a lot of people. And now it's the idea of refocusing and everything we do going forward

## Roundup

# Yelich breaks kneecap, out for year

Associated Press

**MIAMI**—Christian Yelich and the Milwaukee Brewers didn't need this kind of break.

Trying to catch up in the wild-card race, the Brewers instead saw the reigning NL MVP go down with a broken right kneecap Tuesday night.

"We don't have a definitive time frame other than we know he will be out the remainder of the season right now," general manager David Stearns said after a 4-3 win over Miami. "We also don't know if surgery is required."

Yelich, who did not talk with reporters after the game, was to travel to Milwaukee for additional tests on Wednesday.

The Brewers didn't say whether Yelich might be able to return for the playoffs that begin Oct. 1 if they make it that far. Milwaukee, which won its fifth in a row, closed within one game of the Chicago Cubs for the second NL wild-card spot.

"I just heard. That's not good," Cubs manager Joe Maddon said after a 9-8 loss in 10 innings at San Diego. "Listen, I always want to beat other teams at their best, so that's a tough one right there."

Yelich hit .329 with 44 home runs and 97 RBIs along with 30 stolen bases this season. The outfielder was leading the majors in slugging percentage and OPS when he was hurt.

It was 3-all when Yasmani Grandal led off the ninth with a single off Miami reliever Adam Conley (2-9) and advanced to third on Grisham's double. Pinch-hitter Austin's fly ball to medium center was deep enough to score Grandal.

**Mets 3, Diamondbacks 2:** Zack Wheeler pitched one-run ball for seven innings, Justin Wilson navigated four difficult outs in his first since April and host New York beat Arizona.

Todd Frazier drove a pair of run-scoring doubles for the Mets.

New York has taken the first two games in the key four-game set between NL playoff contenders and closed within three games of the Chicago Cubs for the second NL wild card. Arizona, which had won 11 of 12 before, remained 2½ games behind the Cubs.

Wheeler (11-7) struck out seven and allowed seven hits and two walks.

**Padres 9, Cubs 8 (10):** Manuel Margot drew four pinch bases-in-one walk with one out in the 10th inning and host San Diego overcame an impressive power display by Kris Bryant and Jason Heyward to beat Chicago.

The Cubs' lead for the second NL wild-card spot was cut to one game over Milwaukee and two over Philadelphia.

Bryant hit a pair of two-run home runs and Heyward also homered twice and drove in three runs for the Cubs.

**Phillies 6, Braves 5:** Corey Dickerson homered twice to help his team's wild-card push and host Philadelphia hit five home runs in a win over Atlanta.

The Phillies closed within two games of the Chicago Cubs for the NL's second wild card.

J.T. Realmuto, Bryce Harper and Dickerson all homered in the first inning, Scott Kingery hit an inside-the-park homer and Dickerson tacked an insurance run with a solo shot late to help the Phillies win for the third time in four games.

**Tigers 12, Yankees 11:** Jordy Mercer capped a comeback from a six-run deficit with a game-ending single, and host Detroit overcame six home runs by New York.

Brett Gardner and Didi Gregorius each homered twice, and Gleyber Torres and Edwin Encarnacion also went deep for the Yankees, whose 276 homers tied Minnesota for the major league lead.

New York led 6-0 in the second inning. But the Tigers scored six runs in the third, aided by an error by Torres at second base.

**Twins 5, Nationals 0:** Jose Berrios surrendered six singles in his first start, but he bled out in six innings, Mitch Garver hit the tie-breaking two-run homer in the seventh, and host Minnesota beat Washington.

Berrios (12-8) struck out four and walked one. Anibal Sanchez (8-8) was almost as sharp for the Nationals, finishing with four hits and one walk, along with five strikeouts.

**Rays 5, Rangers 3 (11):** Austin Meadows tied the game with a two-run homer in the eighth, and visiting Tampa Bay scored twice in the 11th after two Texas errors on the same play, stretching its winning streak to six games.

The Rays (87-59) won for the 11th time in 12 games to stay 1½ games ahead of Oakland for the top AL wild-card spot.

Tampa Bay had two on with two outs in the 11th against Emmanuel Clase (2-3) when the rookie reliever bobbled a slow roller by Kean Wong and had his desperate throw bounce away from the first baseman. Second baseman Rougned Odor picked it up and made a wild errant throw into left field with a runner diving back into second base, and Nate Lowe scored the tiebreaking run from third.

**White Sox 7, Royals 3:** Rookie Eloy Jimenez hit his first career grand slam, Yoan Moncada launched a two-run homer and host Chicago won easily.

Adam Engel added a solo shot as the White Sox won their second straight, but just their fourth in 14 games.

**Athletics 21, Astros 7:** Matt Olson and Sean Murphy each homered twice, and Oakland tagged Wade Miley for seven runs in the first inning and scored a season-high 21 runs in a rout of host Houston.

After being blunked in a lopsided loss on



RICHARD W. RODRIGUEZ/AP

**Tampa Bay's Nate Lowe gets high fives in the dugout after scoring the go-ahead run in the 11th inning against Texas on Tuesday.**

Monday, Oakland recovered to win its seventh of nine and remained ahead of Cleveland for the second AL wild-card spot.

**Rockies 2, Cardinals 1:** Nolan Arenado hit a 482-foot two-run homer that bounced out of Coors Field in the first inning. Chi Chi Gonzalez got his first big league win in four years and host Colorado slowed St. Louis' playoff push.

The Cardinals, who had won 23 of 30, maintained a four-game lead in the NL Central over the second-place Chicago Cubs.

**Blue Jays 4, Red Sox 3:** Rowdy Tellez hit a two-run home run, Cavan Biggio and Reese McGuire added solo shots and host Toronto snapped a seven-game losing streak with a win over Boston.

**Giants 5, Pirates 4:** Johnny Cueto dazzled for five shutout innings in his long-awaited season debut, pitching host San Francisco past Pittsburgh.

Cueto, back on the mound for the first time in 13 months after Tommy John surgery, allowed one hit, struck out four and walked one.

**Mariners 4, Reds 3:** Kyle Lewis homered in his major league debut, Kyle Seager hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the eighth, and host Seattle stopped a six-game losing streak by beating Cincinnati.

**Indians 9, Angels 0:** Rookie Zach Plesac pitched a four-hitter for his first complete game in the majors and visiting Cleveland kept pace in the playoff race.

Francisco Lindor and Jordan Luplow homered, and Frammel Reyes drove in four runs as the Indians stayed a half-game behind Oakland for the second AL wild-card spot. Cleveland trails wild-card leader Tampa Bay by two games.

He has 201 for the season.

"That was just a clinic from first inning through the seventh for him," Orioles manager Brandon Hyde said. "Four pitches for strikes, locating everything. I haven't seen the video, but it didn't seem like he missed a spot the whole night."

The Dodgers can coast to the finish, although they have a shot at breaking the franchise record for largest first-place margin, 13½ games in 1955. LA is also in the running against Houston and the Yankees for best record in the majors and home-field advantage throughout October.

on its own. Corey Seager homered with two on to cap a four-run first inning against Ty Blach (1-3) and added a two-run drive in the third for a 6-0 lead.

Gavin Lux hit his first career homer in the fifth to increase the Dodgers' NL record for long balls in a season to 258.

Tagged by Colorado for six runs in five innings during his previous start, Walker Buehler (13-3) limited last-place Baltimore to four hits in seven shutout innings for the team with the lowest ERA in the league.

Buehler struck out 11, reaching double figures for the sixth time.

showed up trying to give ourselves another chance to make it to the World Series, and this is the first step."

On the outskirts of the mayhem-filled clubhouse, former Dodgers manager Tommy Lasorda watched with a beer in his hand. Roberts came by to shake the hand of the 91-year-old face of the franchise, who ultimately was greeted by almost every beer-soaked player in striking distance.

Although an Arizona loss to the Mets would have clinched it for the Dodgers, Los Angeles emphatically took care of business

is to win 11 games in October."

Los Angeles (10-52), coming off consecutive World Series losses to the Houston Astros and Boston Red Sox and seeking its first title since 1988, will likely begin the postseason at Dodger Stadium on Oct. 3 against the NL wild-card team.

"It's something you don't take for granted. You enjoy them all," said third baseman Justin Turner, who received a beer drenching in the middle of his interview. "Obviously not as dramatic as last year, going to a game 163, but it doesn't take anything away from what we've accomplished. We've

## NFL



JOHN FROSCHAUER/AP

Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver John Ross, right, runs for a touchdown after a reception against the Seahawks during Sunday's game in Seattle. Ross had seven catches for 158 yards and two TDs.

# Cincinnati's Ross finally enjoys a breakout game

By JOE KAY

Associated Press

**J**ohn Ross III had a clear path down the sideline to the end zone. All the receiver had to do was catch the ball and turn on his record-setting speed.

Instead, the ball deflected off his hand. Ross jumped and waved his arms in frustration — not the first time this has happened in his injury-filled career. The Bengals' opener was looking like more of the same for the first-round draft pick.

Until the next play, that is.

This time, Ross ran free and caught a 55-yard touchdown pass from Andy Dalton during a 21-20 loss in Seattle on Sunday, the highlight of his biggest day in the pros. The third-year receiver finished with seven catches for 158 yards and a pair of touchdowns, all career highs. His first touchdown came on a flea-flicker play.

That's more like what the Bengals expected when they took him with the ninth overall pick in 2017.

"I've got to go out and continue to perform like I did last year," Ross said. "But I will say it's a step forward, and I've just got to keep taking those steps forward."

The Bengals drafted Ross to provide an deeper threat along with A.J. Green. Speed was the biggest enticement — Ross set an NFL combine record with a 4.22-second time in the 40-yard dash. But a shoulder injury and a knee injury limited him to three games and one start as a rookie, when he had no catches and fumbled the only time he touched the ball on a running play.

A groin injury limited him last season, when he started 11 games and finished with 21 catches for 210 yards and seven touchdowns. This year, a hamstring injury wiped out most of his training camp — he didn't play in a preseason game — and left everyone wondering when he'd get healthy and how he'd fit into first-year coach Zac Taylor's new offense.

**“We feel like he's a great fit for how we want to operate on offense, and his skillset is a really good fit for what we do.”**

**Zac Taylor**  
Bengals coach, on third-year receiver John Ross III

Through one game, it's a perfect match.

"I think a lot of things played into what was going on," Ross said, referring to his entire career. "Me not being able to be healthy the last two years, that's something I'm working on. And this is a different offense."

The Bengals need him to emerge while they wait for Green to return from ankle surgery sometime in the season's first half.

"We feel like he's a great fit for how we want to operate on offense, and his skillset is a really good fit for what we do," Taylor said. "That was a good first game for John to get going and see that, 'All right, I can have a lot of success doing the things they want me to do.'"

The Bengals used a lot of screens and short passes against the Seahawks, taking advantage of completions that Seattle was conceding at times. The Bengals caught them by surprise with the 33-yard flea-flicker for Ross' first score, as he got beyond the coverage for an easy touchdown.

Although it was a good first showing on offense — 429 yards — the Bengals couldn't make enough plays in the second half to pull off the upset. The solid showing provided optimism that an offense that has been among the league's worst the past two seasons will be more formidable in Taylor's system.

And Ross will be a featured part of it. "It feels good to know that I'm supposed to be in this offense, that I can make plays," Ross said. "The worst part about it is you do all that and you take a loss. It kind of means nothing."

**Adding a linebacker:** The Bengals signed linebacker LaRoy Reynolds and waived defensive end Jordan Willis on Tuesday. Reynolds has played for the Jaguars, Bears, Falcons and Eagles. He was with the 49ers in preseason but was released in the final cuts. Cincinnati opened the season with four linebacksers but have depth on their line. Willis, a third-round pick in 2017, has appeared in 32 games with two sacks. He was inactive Sunday at Seattle. The Bengals host San Francisco on Sunday.

## Statistics

## AFC individual leaders

Week 1					
Quarterbacks					
	Att	Com	Yds	TD	Int
Dalton, CIN	51	35	418	2	0
Mahomes, KC	33	23	276	3	0
Brady, NE	36	24	341	3	0
Rivers, LAC	34	25	333	3	0
J. Jackson, OAK	29	23	324	5	0
Mayfield, CLE	38	25	285	1	3
Rodriguez, PIT	47	27	276	0	1
Roethlisberger, PIT	25	22	275	1	1
Flacco, DEN	31	21	268	1	1
Watson, HOU	30	20	268	0	1
Runners					
	Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
M. Mack, IND	25	174	7.0	63	1
Ma. Ingram, BAL	14	107	7.6	59	2
J. Jacobs, OAK	23	85	3.7	13	2
D. Henry, TEN	19	84	4.4	18	1
C. Hyde, HOU	10	83	8.3	20	0
McCoys, KC	17	81	4.8	25	0
N. Chubb, CLE	14	75	4.4	15	0
Singletary, BUF	13	66	5.1	14	0
Fourtette, JAC	17	60	3.5	12	1
L. Bell, NYJ	11	60	6.0	60	0
Levine, BAL	1	60	6.0	60	0
Receivers					
	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
S. Watkins, KC	9	198	22.0	68	3
Ross, CIN	7	158	22.6	59	2
M. Brown, BAL	4	147	36.8	63	2
Chark, JAC	4	146	36.5	49	1
K. Allen, LAC	8	123	15.4	28	1
J. Brown, BUF	7	123	17.6	38	0
Co. Sutton, DEN	7	120	17.1	30	0
D. Hopkins, HOU	8	111	13.9	38	0
Amos, BAL	8	108	13.5	39	0
Ty. Williams, OAK	6	105	17.5	43	1

Punters				
	No	Yds	Avg	LG
Haack, MIA	6	322	58	71
Wadman, DEN	3	143	47.7	67
Gilbert, CLE	5	233	46.6	66
Kern, TEN	2	177	70	46.2
B. Pitt, IND	5	228	45.6	65
A. Cole, OAK	3	134	52	44.7
Huber, CIN	2	177	51	44.2
L. Edwards, NYJ	7	304	54	43.4
Bojorquez, BUF	3	130	60	43.2
Daniel, HOU	4	172	54	43.0
Punt returns				
	No	Yds	Avg	Long
Olsewski, NE	2	35	17.5	20
Cy. Jones, BAL	2	23	14.5	15
Ericksen, CIN	4	34	8.5	11
Kickoff returns				
	No	Yds	Avg	Long
Dw. Harris, OAK	2	101	50.5	72
Billiard, CLE	3	80	26.7	32
Hardman, KC	4	45	22.5	27
P. Campbell, IND	4	46	19.0	23
Switzer, PIT	2	43	21.5	26
J. Grant, MIA	3	59	19.7	23
Ervin, JAC	3	38	19.1	21
D. Henry, TEN	2	25	17.5	20
T. Hilton, IND	2	27	13.5	17
Watts, KC	2	0	0.0	0
Scoring				
Touchdowns				
	TD	Rush	Rst	Pts
Ekelor, LAC	3	0	0	3
S. Watkins, KC	3	0	0	3
D. Deshaun, NE	2	0	0	2
Dorsett, NE	2	0	0	2
D. Henry, TEN	2	1	1	1
McKean, DEN	1	0	0	0
D. Hopkins, HOU	2	0	0	2
Ma. Ingram, BAL	2	0	0	2
J. Jacobs, OAK	2	0	0	2
Ross, CIN	2	0	0	2
De. Walker, TEN	2	0	0	2
Kicking				
	PAT	FG	LG	Pts
Butker, KC	4/4	4/4	44	46
Gostkowski, NE	3/3	3/3	33	33
Santos, TEN	5/5	2/2	2/2	5/3
Tucker, BAL	8/8	1/1	3/4	34
McKean, DEN	1/1	3/4	2/3	2
Bull, BUF	2/2	2/2	2/3	3
Larson, JAC	2/2	2/2	2/2	10
Carlson, OAK	3/3	1/1	1/1	29
T. Long, LAC	3/3	1/1	1/1	40
Hauschka, BUF	2/2	1/1	1/1	13

## AFC team leaders

Week 1				
AVERAGE PER GAME				
OFFENSE				
Team	Yards	Rush	Pass	Pts
Baltimore	643.0	265.0	378.0	30
Kansas City	491.0	113.0	378.0	20
New England	366.0	99.0	267.0	20
L. Chargers	493.0	125.0	368.0	20
Indianapolis	428.0	110.0	318.0	20
Jacksonville	428.0	181.0	347.0	20
N.Y. Jets	444.0	144.0	300.0	20
Indianapolis	376.0	203.0	173.0	30
Buffalo	370.0	128.0	242.0	20
San Francisco	357.0	88.0	269.0	20
Cleveland	346.0	102.0	244.0	20
N.Y. Jets	339.0	34.0	305.0	20
Tennessee	338.0	123.0	215.0	16
Pittsburgh	308.0	32.0	276.0	20
N.Y. Jets	153.0	123.0	30.0	20
Miami	500.0	21.0	179.0	30
DEFENSE				
Team	Yards	Rush	Pass	Pts
Baltimore	200.0	21.0	179.0	30
Buffalo	289.0	28.0	261.0	20
Cincinnati	233.0	72.0	161.0	20
New England	329.0	32.0	297.0	20
Cleveland	339.0	123.0	216.0	16
San Francisco	340.0	245.0	95.0	20
Tennessee	346.0	102.0	244.0	20
Denver	357.0	98.0	259.0	20
San Francisco	360.0	128.0	232.0	20
L. Chargers	376.0	203.0	173.0	30
San Francisco	376.0	128.0	248.0	20
Indianapolis	425.0	125.0	300.0	20
Pittsburgh	465.0	99.0	366.0	20
San Francisco	478.0	378.0	0.0	20
Houston	510.0	148.0	362.0	20
Miami	643.0	265.0	378.0	30

## NFC individual leaders

Week 1					
Quarterbacks					
	Att	Com	Yds	TD	Int
Prescott, DAL	32	25	405	4	0
Stafford, DET	41	28	385	5	0
Keenum, WAS	44	30	380	3	0
Brees, NOR	43	32	370	2	0
Wentz, PHI	39	28	313	2	0
K. Murray, ARI	54	29	308	2	1
Manning, NYG	41	27	306	1	1
Ryan, ATL	46	33	304	2	2
Newton, CAR	38	25	239	0	1
Trubisky, CHI	40	28	228	0	1
Runners					
	Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
McCaffrey, CAR	19	128	6.7	23	2
Kirk, NYG	11	120	10.9	22	0
D. Cook, MIN	21	111	5.3	22	0
Gurley, LA	14	97	6.9	25	0
Kamara, NOR	13	97	7.5	28	0
D. Johnson, ARI	18	82	4.6	18	0
R. James, TAM	13	75	5.8	16	0
Malcol. Brown, LA	11	53	4.8	17	2
E. Elliott, DAL	13	53	4.1	10	0
Ker. Johnson, DET	16	49	3.1	9	0
Mattison, MIN	9	49	5.4	23	0
Receivers					
	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Gallup, DAL	7	158	22.6	62	0
De. Jackson, PHI	8	154	19.2	53	2
Hockenson, DET	6	131	21.8	39	1
McClain, WAS	4	135	34.0	69	1
M. Thomas, NOR	10	123	12.3	24	0
Engram, NYG	11	116	10.5	22	0
Frederick, ARI	8	110	13.8	45	0
Cooper, DAL	6	106	17.7	45	1
Amendola, DET	7	134	19.1	47.5	0
Al. Robinson, CHI	7	102	14.6	27	0
Punters					
	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Way, WAS	5	272	58	54.4	0
Johnson, PHI	5	247	49.4	54.3	0
Colquitt, MIN	5	247	49.4	54.3	0
Scout, NYG	5	247	49.4	54.3	0
C. Scott, GBY	9	428	63	47.6	0
A. Lee, ARI	8	380	50	47.5	0
Dickson, SEA	4	370	47.5	47.5	0
Bojorquez, BUF	3	30	60	43.2	0
O'Donnell, CHI	8	341	53	42.6	0
Punt returns					
	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
McCloud, CAR	2	24	12.0	13	0
Sutton, DET	2	19	9.5	16	0
Soroles, PHI	4	46	11.5	17	0
Natson, LA	2	3	1.5	3	0
Cohen, CHI	4	36	9.0	14	0
D. Harris, NOR	3	20	6.7	15	0
Co. Allen, IND	2	19	9.5	16	0
Peppers, NYG	2	7	3.5	5	0
Agnew, DET	5	2	0.4	2	0
Kickoff returns					
	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
McCloud, CAR	2	46	23.0	28	0
Ballentine, NYG	2	46	23.0	28	0
Carlson, SEA	4	46	11.5	17	0
Isabella, ARI	4	86	21.5	32	0
Loman, TAM	2	60	30.0	21	0
D. Harris, NOR	3	43	16.0	21	0
Agnew, DET	3	38	16.0	21	0
Sims, WAS	3	38	16.0	21	0
Scoring					
Touchdowns					
TD	Rush	Rst	Pts	FG	
Malcol. Brown, LA	2	2	0	0	12

## NFL

# Brown practices, status unclear after accusation of rape

Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Patriots receiver Antonio Brown practiced with the team for the first time on Wednesday, a day after his former trainer filed a civil lawsuit in Florida accusing him of sexually assaulting her on three occasions.

Before the practice session Belichick declined to answer additional questions about Brown, including his status for Sunday's game at Miami. He deferred to the Patriots' statement late Tuesday in which they said they were aware of the lawsuit and "take these allegations very seriously."

"Antonio and his representatives have made statements, so I'm not going to be expanding on any of those," Belichick said. "They are what they are. We've looked into the situation. We're taking it very seriously all the way through the organization. I'm sure there are questions, but I'm not going to enter into a discussion about that."

Brown has denied the allegations. Darren Heitner, a lawyer representing Brown, told The Associated Press his client plans to countersue. The NFL has declined comment but will be opening an investigation into the matter.

"He will pursue all legal remedies to not only clear his name, but to also protect other professional athletes against false accusations," Heitner said in a statement.

Belichick was asked specifically about the possibility of Brown being placed on the Commissioner's Exempt List by Roger Goodell. That special designation, which is used at the discretion of Goodell to allow the league to conduct investigations into possible violations of the league's personal conduct policy, would prevent Brown from practicing or attending games while on the list.

Brown would, however, be eligible to continue being paid on the one-year deal he signed Monday with the Patriots that could pay him \$15 million this season.

Former trainer Britney Taylor says Brown sexually assaulted her on three occasions, according to a lawsuit filed Tuesday in the Southern District of Florida.

Heitner said Brown and Taylor had "a consensual personal relationship."

The New York Times first reported about the lawsuit.

The AP does not ordinarily name the alleged victims of sex assaults, but Taylor was identified in the federal lawsuit and was quoted in a statement provided by her lawyer, David Haas.

The 31-year-old Brown, a Miami native, was released by Oakland last week after clashing with the team throughout training camp. He agreed to a contract with New England on Saturday, but has yet to play for the Patriots.

Brown and Taylor met through a Fellowship of Christian Athletes group at Central Michigan University, according to the suit.

Taylor said Brown reached out to her via Facebook in June 2017 and asked the former gymnast for help with improving his strength and flexibility.

According to the lawsuit, Taylor was sexually assaulted by Brown on separate training trips to Pittsburgh and Florida that same month. The suit includes what it says are text messages from Brown bragging about the second assault.

Taylor says in the suit she then cut off ties with Brown. But she agreed to work with him again after she says he apologized and agreed to provide hotel accommodations for each training trip.

According to the lawsuit, Taylor and Brown were in Miami in May 2018 when he raped her in a bedroom at his home. Taylor says she shouted "no" and "stop," but Brown refused.



Mike McCann/AP

Carolina Panthers quarterback Cam Newton looks to pass against the Los Angeles Rams during the first half Sunday's game in Charlotte, N.C. Newton attempted 38 passes in the 30-27 season-opening loss.

## Newton still questioned about repaired shoulder

### QB only threw 1 pass over 20 yards

By STEVE REED

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Cam Newton thinks he knows why the Panthers aren't throwing more deep passes.

The 2015 league MVP joked that Panthers offensive coordinator Norv Turner must have Christian McCaffrey on his fantasy football team, a reference to the Carolina running back getting the bulk of action in Week 1 and racking up 209 yards from scrimmage and scoring two touchdowns — on 29 total touches — in Carolina's 30-27 loss to the Los Angeles Rams.

Newton, meanwhile, did not throw or run for a TD against the Rams and only attempted one pass of longer than 20 yards.

"I think that is what it is," Newton said with a big smile. "Doggone Norv gone and picked CMAC for fantasy, man. I should have went over and seen who he was drafting in his league."

Then Newton paused and continued joking. "That's probably why we ain't throwing no deep

passes, right? He didn't pick me for his quarterback! Now it's all making sense."

All kidding aside, there is some question about why Newton still isn't throwing deep even though he's supposedly healed and under no restrictions from the coaching staff following arthroscopic surgery in January.

Newton attempted 38 passes against the Rams, but most were check-downs or passes underneath the coverage. His only attempt beyond 20 yards was a ball that sailed 25 yards through the air and over the head of wide receiver Curtis Samuel.

That's reminiscent of last season, when Newton struggled through a lingering shoulder injury that limited his arm strength. He rarely threw a pass of more than 20 yards in the second half of last season.

Newton has insisted his shoulder is fine entering Thursday night's game against Tampa Bay and that it didn't bother him in Week 1.



Tampa Bay Buccaneers (0-1)  
at Carolina Panthers (0-1)

AFN Sports

2:20 a.m. Friday CET

9:20 a.m. Friday JKT

The 30-year-old quarterback said he's grown tired of people asking him questions about it, and his standard answer has been that he's "taking what the defense gives him."

Still, the questions will continue until he proves he can throw deep in a real game.

"You are only asking me because of my shoulder," Newton said. "How about this: talk to the defensive coordinator for Tampa and ask if they don't think I can throw the ball over 20 yards and see how far that gets you."

Buccaneers coach Bruce Arians said he believes Newton.

"I don't believe there is any doubt about it or he wouldn't be playing," Arians said. "Yeah, he has all of his tools and he's ready to go."

Arians said the Bucs won't defend Newton any differently on Thursday night.

"I don't want to find out in a game," Arians said.



Jeff Chu/AP

Wide receiver Antonio Brown, who signed a one-year deal with the New England Patriots after being released Saturday by the Oakland Raiders, is accused of rape by a former personal trainer.

**4 Talk to the defensive coordinator for Tampa and ask if they don't think I can throw the ball over 20 yards and see how far that gets you.**

Cam Newton

Panthers QB on questions about his surgically repaired shoulder



## SPORTS



**US falls to France**  
Americans' tournament streak ends at 58 » **Basketball, Page 27**

MLB



JULIO CORTEZ/AP

Los Angeles relief pitcher Caleb Ferguson celebrates after the Dodgers defeated the Orioles 7-3 Tuesday night in Baltimore. The Dodgers, who took sole possession of first place in the NL West on April 17, became the first team in the majors to clinch a playoff berth this season.

# Clinching another chance

## Dodgers, seeking 1st championship since 1988, lock up 7th consecutive NL West title

By DAVID GINSBURG  
Associated Press

**BALTIMORE** — The Los Angeles Dodgers sprayed each other with bubbly, emptied dozens of bottles of beer while drinking very little of it and carried on in a fashion appropriate for a team celebrating its seventh consecutive NL West title.

The Dodgers certainly were elated about becoming the first team in the majors to clinch a playoff spot this season. Yet, because the occasion was virtually a given since May and not nearly as emotional as their playoff victory over the Colorado Rockies in Game 163 last year, the party was, as manager Dave Roberts put it, "subdued."

"It was one of those things that we expected it," Roberts said Tuesday night after a 7-3 victory over the Baltimore Orioles. "It's obviously early in September, but it doesn't take away what we as an organization accomplished."

The Dodgers, with a power-packed lineup and imposing rotation, gained sole possession of first place on April 17 and never looked back. Their final pursuer was the Arizona Diamondbacks, who dropped 18½ games out of first place with a loss to the New York Mets on Tuesday night.

After the last out, the players gathered around the mound and prepared for the soaking to follow.

SEE DODGERS ON PAGE 29



JULIO CORTEZ/AP

Dodgers manager Dave Roberts holds a cellphone during a video conference with injured infielder Max Muncy as the team celebrates in the clubhouse.

### Franchise fastest

The Dodgers became the fastest team in franchise history to clinch a division, by games played and date. The 1977 Dodgers previously needed the fewest games (151) and the 2013 club accomplished the feat earliest (Sept. 19). This season's iteration needed 146 games and nine fewer days to accomplish the feat after losing the last two World Series. The Dodgers also became only the third team to win seven or more consecutive division titles. Only the Atlanta Braves from 1991 to 2005 (14) and New York Yankees from 1998 to 2006 (nine) have won more.

— Los Angeles Times

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